

Rights group condemns Syrian trials

WASHINGTON (R) — Human rights advocates have called on Syria to stop holding state security court trials of political detainees and investigate reports that confessions obtained through torture were allowed as evidence. New York-based Middle East Watch made the call to President Hafez Al Assad in a report released Sunday. Middle East Watch also demanded the release of thousands of people it said remained in detention without charges, some for as long as 22 years. Middle East Watch said the security court trials began in August for 600 political prisoners held for violating what the report called "a vaguely worded national security law." It said detainees are isolated in windowless underground cells or in open-roofed communal cellblocks in the remote desert region of Palmyra, in conditions the report characterized as "appalling and sometimes life-threatening." Middle East Watch said there were continuing abuses by the Syrian security services, including the systematic use of torture during interrogation. The report said the presiding judge in the security court trials had allowed the use of evidence obtained under torture. No verdicts have been returned in the trials.

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Egypt-Sudan talks end inconclusively

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt and Sudan, bickering neighbours whose relations have deteriorated for two years, ended Saturday a second round of talks on a border dispute inconclusively and agreed to meet again at an unspecified date. In a joint statement, the two sides described the talks as "cordial and lively... dealing with all sides of Egyptian-Sudanese relations in an objective and scientific way." The meeting began four days ago and focused on Halaib, a triangular enclave at the eastern end of the Sudanese-Egyptian border overlooking the Red Sea. Egypt claims Halaib under an 1899 agreement with Britain that set the frontier along the 22nd parallel. After Saturday's meeting, Ali Mohamed Osman Yassin, Sudan's assistant foreign minister and head of the Sudanese delegation to the talks, said "the most important achievement is that we've lifted tension in the relations between the two countries." Osama Al Baz, President Hosni Mubarak's chief political adviser told reporters "we have made important progress."

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Sharif Zeid receives message from Arafat

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Saturday received Yasser Arafat, member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Executive Committee, who conveyed to him a verbal message from PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. Sharif Zeid and Mr. Arafat discussed Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the latest developments in the Middle East peace process. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouran Hindawi.

Saudi-Yemeni talks resume this week

SANAA (AP) — A Yemeni delegation left Saturday for Riyadh for a second round of negotiations with Saudi Arabia on their long-standing dispute on joint borders, part of which is an oil-rich area. Yemeni officials, reporting the team's departure, said the team expected to hear Saudi response to their proposal at the first round in September that the dispute should be settled on basis of "neither harmed nor harming." They said this was the same principle on which Yemen settled a dispute with Oman, explaining that this meant each side compromised to produce a settlement in the interest of stable mutual relations. The Yemeni delegation, also carried a number of proposals on procedural aspects of the negotiations, said the officials. The negotiating team is led by Jaafar Dasalah, director of the Yemeni vice-president's office. Sanaa has yet to make any direct public comment on the Saudi proposals submitted at the first round. A Saudi statement then said that the proposals involved setting up a joint committee to hire an international company to help remark areas of the border that had been marked before under terms of the Taif accord reached in 1994 by the late King Abdul Aziz Saud and the imam then ruling in Yemen. The committee also would mark areas of the border determined by the accord but never marked.

Extremist trial opens in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Fifteen suspected Muslim extremists appeared before a military court Saturday, charged with plotting assassinations and sabotage aimed at overthrowing Egypt's system of government. Conviction on the charges carries the death penalty or long-term imprisonment under legislation enacted in July. The amendments were part of the government's campaign against mounting violence by extremists seeking to implement Islamic law in secular Egypt. In all, 26 alleged extremists were charged in Saturday's case. Eleven, including a Sudanese, are at large but are being tried anyway. Except for the Sudanese, all are Egyptian. They are the second group of suspected Muslim extremists to go on trial this week in Alexandria, where most were caught. The trial of the first group, 18 in the dock and four at large, began Thursday and was adjourned to Sunday.

Kuwait MP proposes splitting judiciary from state

KUWAIT (R) — A senior member of Kuwait's parliament said Saturday he had proposed a draft law that would separate the judiciary from the state. "The aim of this bill is to implement the constitution by establishing a fully independent body of the judiciary," Hamed Al-Faraj, a parliament-bound member of the parliament (MP) said on Oct. 3, told Reuters in an interview. "The judiciary is a separate full-supervision of the executive, and this is against the constitution," added Mr. Jozan, chairman of the parliament's Legal Affairs Committee. Articles 50 to 53 of the constitution say that the legislative, executive, and judicial powers shall be separate. But Kuwait judges are state employees, Mr. Jozan said, the bill, which he and fellow Deputy Minister Al-Osami proposed to parliament last Tuesday, was backed by an overwhelming majority of deputies, and he hoped it would be passed within three months. It could be the most significant reform since the 1962 constitution was passed.

Prosecution rests its case after demanding guilty verdict in Nafeer case

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

MARKA — The prosecution in the Shabab Al Nafeer Al Islami trial rested its case Saturday at the State Security Court and demanded that the court find all four defendants, including Islamic deputies Laith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarrash, guilty as charged.

The prosecutor, Major Mohamad Hijazi, did not explicitly request a maximum penalty — death penalty — against the accused and left the sentencing open for the court. However, he pointed out to a number of legal texts that said some of the charges of which the defendants are accused are punishable by death.

The deputies, along with two shopkeepers, are charged with establishing and belonging to an illegal armed group aiming to topple the regime and replace it with an Islamic caliphate-style leadership and possession of explosives and weapons. Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarrash are also accused of undermining Jordanian-Iraqi relations, and the former is charged with slandering His Majesty the King and members of Parliament.

But the prosecutor unexpectedly ignored a controversial Syrian witness — later identified as Yassin Ramadan — who testified in a secret trial that he had delivered 300,000 German marks (about \$200,000) from the Iranian leadership to Mr. Shbeilat. The holding of the secret session caused the lawyers of Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarrash to withdraw from the case in protest.

Maj. Hijazi later refused to comment on why his two-hour summation excluded any mention of "Mr. Yassin" or his testimony.

The court also heard the defence summation for the two accused shopkeepers, Ahmad Ayoubi and Abdul Hamid Idkadek, who pleaded guilty to belonging to an illegal armed group, (Shabab Al Nafeer Al Islami) and to possession of weapons and explosives. But they argued, the group aimed at working inside the occupied territories against the Israeli authorities, and did not plan any subversion in Jordan.

In Saturday's session lawyer Mazen Al Hadid — who was appointed by the court to defend Mr. Shbeilat after his defence team withdrew — requested from the court to be relieved of his duty of defending the deputy because he did not "want to impose himself on him." Mr. Shbeilat had rejected any defence after his lawyers withdrew.

The presiding judge, Lieutenant-Colonel Youssef Faouri, overruled Mr. Hadid's request and told him he had until the next session on Tuesday to prepare his summation. Sheikh Qarrash's appointed lawyer, Mohamad Iwaid, is also expected to present a summation on Tuesday before the court recesses to decide on a verdict.

In an unusual security measure, and for the first time since the trial began, all the roads leading to the State Security Court in Marka were blocked off by police in an apparently successful effort to prevent a planned demonstration protesting the proceedings of the trial. Only journalists and people close to the defendants — whether in vehicles or on foot were allowed to pass through the main and backroads. The street outside the courthouse witnessed pro-Shbeilat demonstrations in the last three sessions.

Maj. Hijazi, who read from his 32-page summation, insisted that he had presented enough evidence to prove that all four defendants were guilty as charged, and outlined a detailed review of the testimonies of the prosecution witnesses, the testimonies and confessions of Mr. Ayoubi and Mr. Idkadek and the documents found related to the case.

Maj. Hijazi referred to the testimony of Mr. Shbeilat's driver, Deifallah Zekkat, that he saw Mr. Ayoubi

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CHAOS IN MONROVIA: People try to help an elderly woman, who fainted as the result of a lack of food and water in the street of the Liberian capital, which is under a rebel siege (see story on page 8)

Palestinian leaders to meet for review of latest round of talks

Combined agency dispatches

TUNIS — PALESTINIAN leader Yasser Arafat has called for an emergency meeting of Palestinian leaders in Tunis to review the one-year-old Middle East peace process, a spokesman said Saturday.

Jamil Hilal, director of the Information Department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said the meeting, scheduled for Nov. 5, is to be attended by leaders of all factions of the PLO, including those who oppose the peace talks.

He said the head of the Palestinian negotiators to the talks in Washington, Haidar Abdul Shafi, and several members of the team are also expected to attend.

"It is only natural that all the PLO groups including those who rejected the talks should be at the meeting," Mr. Hilal said. "They are requested to come and make their views... but we expect to hear a realistic language."

It is not clear why Mr. Arafat has called for the meeting less than three weeks after a crucial gathering for the Palestine Central Council where he defeated a motion by the hardline groups demanding the withdrawal of Palestinian negotiators from the talks.

On Friday, the Tunisian daily Al-Sabah quoted an unidentified PLO source as saying Mr. Arafat was under pressure to give the Palestinian negotiators his approval to sign an agreement

with Israel on "self-rule for the occupied territories."

The source said Mr. Arafat has resisted because what is offered is less than the minimum demands of the Palestinians.

Palestinian hardliners want to force the negotiators to walk out until Israel is ready to discuss an independent Palestinian state. The Israelis insist they will discuss limited autonomy, never statehood, for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In an interview with the Associated Press on Monday, Mr. Arafat expressed pessimism on the peace talks, which he said should have brought an autonomous rule for the Palestinians by the first anniversary of the talks on Oct. 30.

He urged President George Bush

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Hariri announces cabinet

BEIRUT (AP) — Prime Minister-designate Rafik Hariri, a Saudi-backed billionaire, formed a new cabinet of pro-Syrian politicians and warlords to steer the country out of its worst economic crisis since independence in 1943.

An official announcement said President Elias Hrawi approved the makeup of the 30-man government in a meeting with Mr. Hariri which also was attended by Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri. The half-Christian, half-Muslim government comprised four militia chieftains as ministers of state with portfolios.

They are: Walid Junblat, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), Abdullah Al Amin, head of the Lebanese chapter of the Syrian Baath Party, Elie Hobeika, who leads the Waad Party, a pro-Syrian Christian faction, and Sulaiman Franjeh, commander of the Marada Brigades, also a pro-Syrian Christian faction in northern Lebanon.

The four had served in all three previous cabinet formed after the end of the 1975-90 civil war.

Mr. Junblat is a Druze. Mr. Amin is a Shiite Muslim and both Mr. Hobeika and Mr. Franjeh are Maronite Catholics.

Mr. Berri, a fifth key militia chieftain and a Shiite, was elected earlier this month as speaker of the new 128-member parliament.

Mr. Berri, according to the official announcement, attended the meeting between Mr. Hrawi and Mr. Hariri.

Foreign Minister Faris Bweiz, a Maronite, Information Minister Michel Sameh, a Greek Catholic, and Health Minister Marwan Hamaden, a druze, retained the posts they held in the outgoing cabinet.

Qatari envoy says Iraqi leader wants pre-crisis ties

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Qatar's ambassador to Iraq, back in Baghdad after a lengthy absence, says President Saddam Hussein wants to restore Arab relations to the way they were before his troops invaded Kuwait, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Saturday.

Qatar never officially closed its embassy in Baghdad but Ambassador Mohammad Ben Rashid Al Khalifa left during the crisis caused by the August 1990 invasion, when Qatar and the other Gulf Arab states sided with Kuwait.

Mr. Khalifa returned last week, this time amid a Qatari border dispute with Saudi Arabia, the leading Arab member of the U.S.-led military coalition that forced an end to the Iraqi occupation. Restoring full relations with Iraq was considered by many to be a Qatari method of ranking Riyadh.

The news agency said the Baghdad daily Al-Jomhuriya published an interview with Mr. Khalifa in which he said he was happy with the hospitality he had received. "These hospitalities and happiness were crowned by meeting Iraqi President Saddam Hussein," the ambassador was quoted as saying. "I felt during my meeting with Saddam that he has sincere desire to restore the Arab relations as they were before."

"Most of my talks with Saddam and other Iraqi officials were concentrated on the necessity of resuming friendly relations," he said.

"Arab countries are in need of solidarity," Mr. Khalifa was quoted as saying. "We must overcome mistakes of the past."

He said Qatar's relations with Iraq "will be stronger in the future. I will exert my efforts for deepening the relations between our two countries."

The ambassador said Baghdad looked much the same as it did before the allied bombing during the Gulf war.

"How great Baghdad is, as if nothing has happened," he was quoted as saying in the dispatch monitored in Cyprus. "I found Baghdad in brilliant garment. I hope it will continue for the best."

Sabah visits UAE

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah arrived in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on a tour to inform Gulf leaders of Kuwait's efforts at mediating in the Saudi-Qatari border dispute, the Emirates News Agency (WAM) said.

Sheikh Sabah, who is also deputy prime minister, visited Saudi Arabia and Qatar earlier this month for talks of settling a border dispute in which three people were killed.

Fighting erupts in Luanda

LUANDA (Agencies) — Heavy fighting broke out Saturday between former rebels and Angolan government forces in Luanda, and state radio said there were many deaths.

Machine-gun fire and explosions could be heard around the capital.

"There is substantial fire in several areas," Edmund de Jarrette, head of the U.S. liaison office in Luanda, said by telephone.

The heaviest shooting appeared to be around the Hotel Turismo which has been used as a base by the rebels, but there were also reports of clashes around the international airport.

Recent violence has heightened fears that Angola is lurching towards a new outbreak of the civil war that devastated the southern Africa nation for 16 years after independence from Portugal in 1975.

Witnesses said machineguns, mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and heavier weapons were being used.

Meanwhile the joint commission overseeing Angola's 1991 peace accords met to examine ways of preventing the country sliding back into civil war.

Four Bush years most sobering for Arabs — can Clinton do any better or worse?

Michael Janssen is the author of "The United States and the Palestinian People" and "Dissonance in Zion" and writes on Cyprus for "The Irish Times" and "Middle East International." She contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

CONSIDERING THE prospects of the Arab World under a new U.S. administration, an Arab friend asserted, "whoever comes in is going to be bad." For the Arabs, Republicans and Democrats have been equally "bad," although the Democrats have the reputation of being more pro-Israel because Democratic candidates usually secure two-thirds of the Jewish vote and large campaign contributions from Jewish supporters and from the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), Israel's U.S. lobby.

There is no point in the Arabs clinging to the happy memory of Republican Dwight Eisenhower, who compelled Israel to make an early withdrawal from Sinai, occupied during the Anglo-French Suez war on Egypt. Mr. Eisenhower

firm stance contrasted sharply with that of Republican Ronald Reagan, considered by Israel to be the "most pro-Israel of all U.S. presidents" ever, who did nothing to stop or limit Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982. Israel occupied Sinai a second time as well as the West Bank, Gaza and the

balance of power in the region to the Arabs' disadvantage. George Bush, used war rather than peace to remove Iraq, the only remaining Arab counterweight to Israel, from the Arab front, leaving all Arabs exposed to Israeli attack.

Bush also brought the Arabs to the negotiating table with Israel (securing de facto recognition for Israel) but then abandoned the negotiators to their own devices as the talks

stalled. So far the Arabs have not gained back one inch of their occupied territories under Mr. Bush's berated peace process.

The bipartisan consensus on Israel has been measured by U.S. financial assistance to Israel, recipient of the largest

amount of U.S. aid. The most substantial annual payment, of nearly \$5 billion, was made in 1979, the year of the Camp David peace accord between Israel and Egypt, by the Democratic Carter administration. However, three-fifths of this sum was a loan and the remainder a grant. Since then the proportion given in grants has grown until under Mr. Reagan in 1985 the entire sum was converted into grants. Mr. Reagan also upgraded the U.S.-Israeli relationship by concluding a "strategic alliance" with Israel and broadened military cooperation, a policy further expanded by Mr. Bush.

Although the U.S. is experiencing its most severe economic crisis in decades during this campaign, neither candidate suggested cutting Israel's hefty near-\$8 billion grant. And this was true also of congressional candidates. Both major presidential contenders pledged to

maintain the current level of aid.

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Jordanians see little shift in peace process whoever is in White House

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanians do not believe that the outcome of the American presidential elections on Nov. 3 would have any significant bearing on the course of the Middle East peace process except that there would be more focus on the negotiating parties themselves to produce results.

At the same time, should president George Bush lose, the process could miss the personal touch of James Baker, who served as secretary of state in the Bush administration and won Arab confidence and approval for his tremendous efforts, according to political analysts and observers.

"American policy vis-a-vis the Middle East has been and will remain to be bipartisan," says a senior government official who had served in Washington for several years. "It does not make much sense for a new administration to change Washington's approach if (Democrat Bill Clinton) were to win the election and replace Bush," he maintains.

According to the official, who asked not to be identified by name, it is indeed a paradox that Republican Bush was the American president to break the deadlock in Middle East peace-making and to project himself as even-handed against the background of the former Republican bias in favour of Israel, especially during Ronald Reagan years as president.

"The track record of the heritage foundation, the right-wing think-tank, establishes the Republicans as the stronger (of the two main American political parties) supporter of Israel," the official notes.

On the other hand, the Brookings Institution where Democrat policy is largely drawn up, is perceived as having a more balanced approach to the Middle East conflict and therefore more acceptable to the Arabs, he says.

Rami Khouri, the American-educated analyst and columnist, also believes that a second term for Mr. Bush or a first term for Mr. Clinton is not going to make "any real difference in the peace process."

"It is in the American interest to resolve the Middle East conflict," he says. "The peace process has been established and is under way. It will be in the interest of any administration to keep it that way."

"I see little difference between the two candidates in the context of the Middle East," he adds. "There have of course been differing approaches during the election campaigns, but I attribute this largely to their push for pro-Israeli votes in New York."

The government official agrees. "Whether the administration is Democrat or Republican, American interests and objectives in the Middle East do not change and therefore there is little worry of a shift in American policy and Middle East peace-making with Clinton in the White House," he says.

"Of course," he adds, "the process will miss the personal touch of Baker (if Bush loses or Mr. Baker is moved from the State Department)."

"That will be an element that would be absent, and this would bring pressure upon the parties themselves to make progress rather than banking on American intervention."

According to Mr. Khouri, "the centre of gravity of the peace process has shifted away from American intervention to direct Arab-Israeli negotiations."

However, he says, it is "wishful thinking" to expect the U.S., under

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Turkey and 5 ex-Soviet republics end summit

ANKARA (R) — Turkey and five ethnically-linked republics of the former Soviet Union ended a two-day summit Saturday by pledging to develop closer ties.

Presidents Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan, Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan, Abulfaz Elchibey of Azerbaijan, Saparmyrat Niyazov of Turkmenistan and Turkish President Turgut Ozal signed an "Ankara Statement" promising talks at least once a year.

It was the first summit of its kind between the five and Turkey, vying with Iran and Saudi Arabia for influence in the south-eastern republics.

"It is very important that the leaders have agreed to set up annual meetings," a senior Turkish diplomat said. "This is only a beginning. All sides need to get to know each other."

The six heads of state will meet again in the Azeri capital of Baku in October next year and may hold interim talks if necessary.

The declaration said the leaders confirmed their wish "to develop bilateral and multilateral cooperation, as well as their will to act jointly at international organisations on the basis of common benefit."

Ankara called the summit during Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel's April tour of the ex-Soviet republics. All but Kazakhstan have predominantly Muslim populations. All but Kazakhstan have predominantly Muslim populations.

The influence of the Russian

Federation, inheritor of the former Soviet Union's mantle, could be perceived in the attitudes of the newly-independent republics, the diplomat said.

"This is natural. They have to go on living with the Russians and with each other."

Mr. Ozal tried to allay any Russian concern about the gathering.

"The aim of this summit of six brotherly nations is only to develop and live in peace, thereby serving regional peace. This is not against anybody," he said in response to a question at a joint news conference.

Turkey, keen to serve as role model as a Muslim but secular democracy with a free-market economy, has promised to help the republics integrate with the West.

"We are sovereign countries. We wish to benefit from Turkey's experiences and the model that it has created for us. This is an acceptable model for our transition to a free-market economy," Mr. Akayev told the news conference.

The six will form working groups to cooperate in industry, energy, agriculture and the service sectors as well as the exploration, management and transportation of oil, natural gas and minerals. They will also exchange technical assistance and training.

The statement stressed "the special bonds among peoples stemming from a common history, language and culture."

U.S. Navy to monitor Iranian sub delivery

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Navy is sending an attack submarine into the Gulf to monitor the expected arrival from Russia next month of Iran's first submarine, military sources said Friday.

"The best defence against a submarine is another submarine," said one of the sources, all of whom spoke on condition of anonymity.

It will be the first time for a U.S. submarine to enter those shallow waters, the navy has confirmed.

It said the USS Topeka was entering the Gulf "to conduct a routine scheduled maintenance period." A statement issued late Friday said the Topeka would enter the Gulf Sunday.

However, the sources said, it will also monitor the activities of the Iranian Kilo-class, diesel submarine that Tehran purchased from Russia and is slowly making its way to Iran.

The Topeka is a nuclear-powered attack submarine, "and it is a superb anti-submarine weapon," one source added.

The U.S. submarine will transit the treacherous waters of the Straits of Hormuz on the surface — not only to allow it to navigate the region safely, but also to send a message with its presence, the source added.

The Iranian submarine, which is manned by a joint Iranian-Russian crew, is now in the Red Sea and because it is travelling so slowly, will not reach Iran until the middle of next month,

according to the informants.

The Iranians purchased two subs, and have an option on a third, as part of a \$750 million deal that officials from Moscow have defended as a necessary means to help support their cash-starved nation.

The vessel is flying the Russian flag and stays on the surface, and is accompanied by a support ship.

A Russian submarine usually transits from port to port and dives when it is on patrol.

The entry of an Iranian-run modern submarine with a significant war-fighting capability has drawn a negative reaction from U.S. officials.

While not as sophisticated as U.S. and Soviet nuclear-powered vessels, it is a quiet vessel and can be considered a threat to shipping in the heavily-travelled waters of the Gulf.

Acting Secretary of State Lawrence S. Eagleburger raised questions about the submarine with Russian officials last month.

Mr. Eagleburger said Iran "has a certain relationship to terrorism that we consider to be anathema."

The United States has had naval forces in the Middle East since the end of World War II, and has maintained a constant presence in the Gulf.

Submarines have routinely operated in the Mideast region as part of the carrier battle groups that have deployed to the Gulf, but this will be the first time one actually enters those waters

Mubarak vows harsh action against tourist attackers

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak has said Muslim militants who attacked foreigners touring Egypt were nothing more than terrorists who would be punished severely along with anyone who helped them.

"Those who carried out these crimes cannot be described as Muslims but they should be described as terrorists," Mr. Mubarak said in an interview published Saturday by the semi-official newspaper Akhbar Al Yom.

"Terrorists will be dealt with extreme firmness and whoever helps terrorists will also be treated with severity."

"The matter is becoming related to the present and future of the Egyptian people and this is an issue that does not call for forgiveness and pleasantness," the Egyptian leader added.

The underground Islamic Group, which is seeking to transform Egypt into a purist Islamic state, has claimed responsibility for two attacks against foreigners in a month.

A British woman was killed and two British men were wounded when gunmen ambushed a safari vehicle in the southern Nile Valley on Oct. 21.

This led the U.S., British and Australian embassies to advise their nationals against travelling in militant Muslim strongholds in Upper Egypt.

"I hope that these attacks will not be repeated for the benefit of the Egyptian people," Mr. Mubarak said. "Tourism has become an important source of our hard currency revenues. Tens of thousands of families depend on tourism for a living."

Tourism is Egypt's biggest foreign exchange earner, with three million annual visitors generating about \$3 billion.

Mr. Mubarak said some militant groups were being funded by unnamed parties abroad to launch attacks aimed at undermining the Egyptian economy.

"Everyone should know that there are many parties abroad who do not wish us stability, because the stability of certain countries is not to their benefit," he said.

According to Tourism Minister Foad Sultan, tourism, Egypt's biggest foreign currency earner, has dropped after the attacks by Muslim extremists.

But Mr. Sultan told a press

conference Wednesday that security measures have been increased to handle the militant threat. He portrayed the attacks as isolated incidents and said tourists can feel safe visiting Egypt.

The British woman was the first foreign fatality in extremists' escalated campaign against the government this year. The violence, mainly aimed at the police forces and members of Egypt's Coptic Christian minority, has so far left 75 people dead and 95 wounded.

This summer, there has been a total of nine attacks against tourists, including shooting at Nile cruises and molotov cocktail attacks on tourist buses, but the Oct. 22 incident was by far the most serious.

Mr. Sultan said that since Oct. 22, 38 chartered flights out of around 90 scheduled ones were cancelled. They were coming from European countries.

"The effect which I know about was for instance the cancellation of about 38 charter flights up to now," Mr. Sultan said, adding that regular flights on Egypt Air and other airline companies "are also facing some cancellations."

He did not say how much money Egypt would lose because of the drop in tourism, but said that he did not expect Islamic extremists to be able to escalate their attacks thanks to government policies.

Muslim extremists want the immediate implementation of strict Islamic laws in Egypt.

Mr. Sultan stressed that the attacks were very isolated incidents, and said that the rate of crime and terrorist attacks in Egypt were very minor compared to other countries.

"Why exaggerate and high light only a single incident... The government is taking very strong measures to look after the safety of tourism on the long isolated routes," Mr. Sultan said.

"It is a small minority... they wanted to confront the regime and political system by attacking the tourist principle (industry)," he said.

Mr. Sultan said that two suspects have been arrested in connection with the killing of the British nurse. He also said that the stabbing of three Russian tourists in the Mediterranean port of Port Said Sunday was not related to Muslim extremists.

British holocaust author ordered out of Canada

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (R) — Controversial British author David Irving, who says the holocaust was exaggerated, was ordered out of Canada Friday after admitting he had misled an official at the U.S. border.

The revisionist historian, who was arrested Wednesday in the British Columbia capital of Victoria, was given two-and-a-half days to leave the country at a deportation hearing in this west coast port city.

Mr. Irving, 54, had earlier ignored a warning from Ottawa not to come to Canada from the United States on a speaking tour.

Mr. Irving acknowledged at Friday's hearing that he failed to tell a customs officer when he crossed the border on Monday at Niagara Falls, Ontario, that he intended to stay in Canada more than two weeks and planned to travel to western Canada.

"That was a misrepresentation on my part... within the meaning of the act," he told immigration adjudicator Paul Tetreault.

Mr. Irving, however, told reporters his arrest had been badly misreported by Canadian authorities who were now trying to save face. "What is happening here is demeaning to me and is more demeaning to Canada," he said.

Mr. Irving was arrested on

Wednesday night in a restaurant in Victoria after the Federal Court of Canada denied him the right to remain in Canada.

The court cited the fact that Mr. Irving was convicted last year, under Germany's criminal code, of making statements "insulting to the memory of the dead."

Mr. Irving said in Friday's interview that he had never denied the existence of the holocaust. "Parts of my great Jewish tragedy did happen, Nazis did machine-gun tens of thousands at a time into pits," he said.

But he said that in 30 years of studying archives in London, Washington and Moscow, he had found no evidence of the existence of all of gas chambers or "factories of death."

Mr. Irving also said the gas chamber shown to tourists in Auschwitz was built after the war by the Poles. "I think we have to apply the same rigorous standards to the holocaust as we apply to all other tragedies of World War II," he said.

He estimated the number of people killed in the holocaust to be less than half the widely accepted figure of six million. "I would say that on the basis of the documents I have seen, the figure is certainly more than 200,000 in all and probably less than two or three million," he said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

UAE rulers meet on domestic, regional issues

ABU DHABI (R) — The seven rulers of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) met Saturday to discuss domestic issues and developments in the Gulf region and the Arab World, officials said. The meeting of Federal Supreme Council, the country's highest policy-making body, was chaired by UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan at his Masdar Palace in Abu Dhabi. The council does not meet regularly but is usually convened to decide on major constitutional or federal matters. No details were available on the council's agenda. Its last meeting was in May, when the rulers rallied behind the Emirate of Sharjah in a dispute with Iran over sovereignty of the strategic Gulf island of Abu Musa. The supreme council in October 1991 reelected Sheikh Zayed, the ruler of Abu Dhabi, as president of the UAE and extended the provisional constitution, in force since 1971, for five years. The Sharjah newspaper Al Khaleej, in a front-page editorial Saturday, urged the council to confirm the UAE's interim constitution as permanent. It also said the council should tackle the problem of uneven economic development among the seven emirates composing the UAE. Abu Dhabi and Dubai are major oil producers that produce the bulk of the UAE's 2.4 million barrels daily crude output. Only Sharjah among the five other emirates — which also include Ajman, Fujairah, Umm Al Qaiwain and Ras Al Khaimah — has any significant income from oil and the five poorer emirates rely heavily on assistance from Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Saturday's meeting comes three days after Morocco's King Hassan held discussions with Sheikh Zayed on healing inter-Arab rifts. It also follows efforts by the UAE to mediate in a dispute between the Gulf neighbours Saudi Arabia and Qatar after a border clash last month in which three people were killed.

Mass burial for 405 Algerian fighters

ALGIERS (R) — Recently-discovered remains of 405 Algerians killed by French troops were reburied with military honours on Friday in eastern Algeria, the official news agency APS said. The Algerians were killed during the 1954-62 war of independence which started 38 years ago next Sunday. The agency did not say where they were found but suggested the bodies had been tipped into an old iron mine. "In this period, the colonial army took convoys of innocent Algerian citizens to submit them to torture sessions before their physical liquidation and burial in the rubble of an old iron mine," APS said. The remains were buried in a new cemetery for independence fighters near Mila, 325 kilometres east of Algiers.

Rebels kill five Turkish soldiers

TATVAN, Turkey (R) — At least five Turkish soldiers were killed and nine wounded Saturday when rebel Kurds raided an outpost on the border with Iran, local reporters said. They quoted military sources as saying a large group of Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas entered Turkey from Iran and attacked the Mezardigir outpost near the town of Semdinli before dawn. The region lies in the southeast where the frontiers of Iraq, Iran and Turkey meet. The semi-official Anatolia news agency said the border post was hit with rockets and automatic rifle fire. Reporters said Turkish air force planes took off after sunrise and attacked the fleeing guerrillas. There was no information on rebel casualties. More than 5,100 Turkish soldiers, civilians and guerrillas have been killed in the PKK's increasingly bloody eight-year campaign for an independent Kurdish homeland in southeast Turkey.

Gambian president visits Morocco

RABAT (R) — Gambian President Sir Dawda Jawara arrived at Casablanca airport Friday for a six-day private visit to Morocco, officials said. He was greeted by members of the government led by Prime Minister Mohammed Karim Lamrani. He is expected to visit Rabat, Fez and Marrakesh but details of his programme were not released.

Lebanese say German police stabbed hijacker

BEIRUT (R) — Supporters of convicted Lebanese hijacker Mohammad Ali Hamadi on Friday dismissed the German government's explanation of how Mr. Hamadi was injured in prison this week and said Germany was planning to kill him. A German official said Mr. Hamadi, serving a life sentence for air piracy and murder, slashed himself in the stomach with a razor-blade in Saarbrücken prison on Tuesday. But the Organisation for the Defence of the Warriors (ODW), a pro-Iranian group, said it had reports "from our trusted sources" that 15 German policemen beat Mr. Hamadi up in prison and one of them stabbed him in an attempt to kill him. "The atmosphere is being prepared to kill him later (and claim) that he committed suicide," the organisation said in a statement delivered to a news agency in Beirut. The statement called on humanitarian organisations and revolutionary forces to intervene and save Mr. Hamadi's life. "We will place full responsibility on the oppressive party if his life is threatened," it added. The German official said Mr. Hamadi had been complaining about health problems and was apparently upset that the authorities would not let him visit a specialist outside the prison. Prison authorities said the specialist should come to the jail for security considerations. Mr. Hamadi was arrested in Germany in 1987 and sentenced to life imprisonment for helping hijack a US airliner to Beirut in 1985. A U.S. navy diver was killed during the hijack.

Bombs damage election bureaux in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (R) — Unidentified assailants tossed bombs at two election bureaux of the True Path Party in Istanbul Friday, causing minor damage, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported. No-one was hurt in the attacks. The True Path Party is the senior partner in Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel's coalition government. Police said the explosions in the suburbs of Cevizli and Kucukyali shattered windows and set furniture of fire. Turkey holds partial municipal elections Sunday.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 72111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Reeves d'enfants
17:57 La Pense de Napatan
18:22 News French
18:35 Documentaries
19:25 Coach
20:15 Documentaries
21:15 News in English
22:30 Law and Order

PRAYER TIMES

04:20 Fajr
10:00 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:19 Dhuhr
14:24 Asr
16:55 Maghreb
18:18 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Switich
A 2107-30
Assembly of God Church, Tel.
617-78
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
625441
St. Luke Church Tel. 661757
St. George Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
621241

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.
628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
775261
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel.
685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
811255
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints Tel. 623024, 659552
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively hot, dry and dusty and some clouds will appear at various altitudes. Winds will be southerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./Max. temp.
Aqaba 13 / 27
Dierat 18 / 32
Jordan Valley 10 / 20

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26, Aqaba 39. Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Latouche 683585
Dr. Mohammad Al Ghazal 787073
Dr. Salama Daboubi 776751
Dr. Youssif Abdo 694916
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fardous pharmacy 778334
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairookh pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 637660
Stenciani pharmacy 637660
Fifth circle pharmacy 813141
Sami pharmacy 661898
Tadil pharmacy 621366
Ya'sub pharmacy 624245
Al Atlas pharmacy 777712
Al Azzoni pharmacy 888681
Hishan pharmacy 771957

IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Bishara 273925
Alqada pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Rajah Saqr 901200

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
First Brigade 192, 621111, 637777
Blood Bank 891222
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 603800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (director assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 10230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81313/32
Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Al-Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn. 624112
Jabal Amman Maternity 642632
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 6647144
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musharraf Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Islamic, Al-Muhajirah 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 77511/26
Army, Marja 89161/15
Quinn Alia Hospital 6224050
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09798332
Zarqa National Hospital 09798332
Ibn Sina Hospital 09798332

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Jeddah (RJ)
06:15 Aqaba (RJ)
06:25 Larnaca (RJ)
06:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
06:35 Beirut (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:58 Beirut, Cairo (AZ)
10:25 Doha, Muscat (RJ)
13:15 Moscow (SU)
16:45 Larnaca (CY)
17:45 Doha (EM)
20:00 Rome (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Upshotower price in fils per kg.

Apple (red) 800 / 600
Banana 450 / 450
Banana (Mikamun) 450 / 450
Beans 400 / 200
Cabbage 130 / 80
Carrot 450 / 300
Cauliflower 350 / 250
Cucumbers (large) 120 / 80
Cucumbers (small) 250 / 200
Eggplant 240 / 200
Garlic 220 / 160
Lemon 140 / 80
Marrow (large) 280 / 200
Marrow (small) 320 / 220
Onion (dry) 180 / 120
Pepper (hot) 220 / 140
Pepper (sweet) 130 / 100
Potato 340 / 250
Tomato 100 / 50
Fig 360 / 300
Guava 450 / 350
Black Grapes 470 / 350
Green Grapes 470 / 350
Dates 500 / 450
Okra 600 / 500
Pomegranate 350 / 250
Spinach 250 / 200

Home News

Cabinet responds positively to ACC request for help

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet of Ministers under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shariq al-Ben Shakir has responded positively to a request for help from the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC).

The recommendations, which are based on resolutions taken by a sub-committee headed by the director general of the ACC, are for providing the necessary funds for the corporation to enable it to encourage agricultural investments, especially those made by individuals, small farmers and cooperative societies.

Based on the recommendations, the Cabinet approved a JD 5 million extension of the Ministry of Finance to the corporation's capital, in addition to providing the ACC with an amount worth JD 5 million from the Social Security Corporation. It also decided to ask the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) to increase the ceiling of facilities granted to the corporation to meet its cash liquidity and to enable it to carry out its duties.

The Cabinet also recommended the ACC work with the Ministry of Finance to secure

external loans from funds and agencies interested in financing agricultural projects. The recommendations also stipulate that the corporation will be at a later stage transformed into an agricultural development bank that enjoys full financial and administrative independence.

The Council of Ministers also approved a request by the director general of the Jordanian Cooperative Organisation (JCO) to allocate an annual sum of JD 30,000 for a period of five years to support a pasture land development project carried out by the JCO in cooperation with the World Food Programme.

The cabinet also approved a recommendation by the minister of industry and trade allowing an industrial firm from Byelorussia to join two local companies in establishing a limited liability company which will be manufacturing light bulbs with a JD 1,600,000 capital.

The Cabinet also approved a draft tourism agreement between Jordan and Cyprus. The agreement aims to activate tourism between Jordan and Cyprus and calls for launching joint tourism ventures.

Jordanian delegation calls for NRWA to participate in refugee talks in Canada

WASHINGTON (Petra) — Jordan's delegation to the meetings of refugees due to open in Ottawa, Canada, in November will insist on the full participation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) which has been caring for the Palestinian refugees since 1948, according to the delegation leader, Dr. Anani.

Dr. Anani who has been a member of the Jordanian delegation to the bilateral meetings of the Middle East peace negotiations said that UNRWA's presence is needed so that its budget can be discussed and its humanitarian services to the refugees in Jordan and the occupied Arab territories can be sustained until a solution for the refugees problem is found.

JNRWA can also provide accurate information about the numbers and the conditions of Palestinian refugees in the area of its operations in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the occupied Palestinian lands, Dr. Anani said.

He said that the working group of refugees which is one aspect of the multilateral phase of the peace process is expected to come

up with proposals to help alleviate the sufferings of the refugees and ensure their rights to their homeland.

Furthermore, Jordan plans to bring to the working group's attention the question of forced migration of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates from the Gulf states in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

Dr. Anani said that UNRWA's presence is necessary at the working group's meeting in Ottawa where discussions would focus on the need to offer the refugees a choice of compensation or right of return.

For their part, the Israelis are trying to impose their condition on the Palestinians who can or cannot attend the meetings but Jordan rejects such conditions, Dr. Anani noted.

Dr. Anani said that Jordan which has shouldered the brunt of the burden of refugees ought to have a key role in finding a just and equitable solution to the problem of refugees. He said that coordination among Arab parties taking part in the Ottawa meeting was of paramount importance to help present a unified stand to the world.



QUEEN OPENS HANDICRAFTS EXHIBITION: Her Majesty Queen Noor opened Saturday the Bani Hamida Annual Fair Exhibition at the Haj Hassan Estate. The week-long exhibition which includes fine handicrafts, weavings and embroidery is organised by the Save the Children Fund. Her Majesty toured the exhibition and inspected the various items on display. The exhibits which will be sold directly to the public were manufactured by 700 women from the Bani Hamida villages and 1,100 women from Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan. The exhibition aims to acquaint Jordanian citizens with the fund's income-generating projects, such as the Bani Hamida and the river Jordan weaving projects. The opening ceremony was attended by a large number of diplomats and citizens.

Pakistani minister arrives in Jordan on anti-narcotics mission

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting Pakistani minister responsible for narcotics control Rana Shandar Singh said Saturday that he came to Jordan in order to familiarise himself with the advanced technology adopted here in the course of combating narcotics.

Speaking at a meeting with Minister of Interior Jawdat Al Shoul on the second day of his visit to Jordan, Mr. Singh said that Jordanian police authorities have accumulated vast expertise and experience in the process of combating drug trafficking operations and dealing with the narcotics trade in general.

Mr. Shoul and Mr. Singh discussed means of promoting cooperation in combating narcotics and reviewed Jordan's methods of dealing with drug trafficking at the borders. Mr. Shoul noted that Jordan has served not as a consumer of drugs but rather as a place of transit. However, the country is taking the appropriate measures to stem such illicit operations.

Mr. Singh, told the Jordanian minister that he was making the visit at the request of the Pakistani prime minister in order to look



Pakistani Minister Rana Shandar Singh (left) discusses with Major General Fadel Ali (right), director of the Public Security Department, drug trade prevention measures Saturday (Petra photo)

into the Jordanian experiment in dealing with drugs. Pakistan, he said, hoped to benefit from the country's anti-narcotics methods.

Following the meeting, Mr. Singh said that he briefed Mr. Shoul on the drug situation in Pakistan and national efforts to combat drug smuggling and addiction. He said that Jordan has expressed willingness to offer assistance to Pakistan in confronting these dangerous practices which, he added, has devastating consequences on all nations.

Mr. Singh, who arrived in Amman Friday evening on a four day visit, met earlier with Major General Fadel Ali director of the Public Security Department (PSD) to discuss cooperation between the anti-narcotics units in Pakistan and Jordan. After listening to a briefing on the anti-narcotics teams over the past few years, Mr. Singh was accompanied on a tour of the special sections which conduct the counter narcotics measures.

Japanese ambassador optimistic that peace will lead to more foreign investment

By Laney Salisbury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ending his diplomatic tenure as Japan's ambassador to Jordan, Tadayuki Nonoyama said increased aid and investment in Jordan depended on whether significant progress in the Middle East peace talks is achieved.

"If peace comes to this area then the whole investment climate will very much improve," Mr. Nonoyama said.

Since the Gulf crisis, Japan has provided \$700 million in "no strings attached" soft loans for basic foodstuffs and commodities and to adjust the balance of payment. The low interest loan is repayable in 30 years with a 10 year grace period.

"Jordan has suffered from its U.N. adherence to the economic embargo on Iraq, and Japan has tried very hard to help Jordan through this difficult period," said the ambassador, scheduled to leave Jordan for Tokyo on Nov. 9.

On Thursday, His Majesty King Hussein conferred the Al Istiklal Medal of the First Order on Mr. Nonoyama for his work in enhancing Jordanian-Japanese relations.

Mr. Nonoyama, who joined the Japanese diplomatic service in 1959, was appointed ambassador of Jordan in 1989, following his work as Consul General of Japan in Hawaii in 1987, and Consul General of Japan in the U.S. state of Georgia in 1985.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Nonoyama said more Japanese private sector investment following a Japanese-Jordanian joint venture to set up a \$70 million fertiliser plant in Aqaba also depends on improvement of the region's rocky political and economic climate.

"Generally speaking, to invest in Jordan is difficult for any investor to decide because of the aftermath of Gulf war. Apart from this, Jordan is a market that also must be looked at on regional basis," Mr. Nonoyama said.

The fertiliser plant, expected to be completed next year, will start producing in 1994 about 300,000 tonnes of compound fertilisers for export to Jordan.

Mitsubishi, one of Japan's commercial giants, is leading the consortium of four major trading groups contributing 60 per cent of the plant's equity.

The plant is the first major Japanese investment by the Japanese private sector after the Gulf war.

"Other investors will be keeping their eyes on this plant. The investment comes at a very opportune time and I very much hope it will attract more Japanese investors," the ambassador said.

The ambassador said that when he returns to Tokyo he will try to promote Jordan, especially as a tourist destination, which he said has "very great potential."

"Not very many Japanese know about Jordan and both countries have to do more to promote the country," he said, adding that most Japanese exposure to Jordan were news flashes during the Gulf war.

On the Middle East peace process, Mr. Nonoyama said Japan will try to have more talks with Israel to help push the peace process forward. He said Japan supports U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 and is "determined" to make progress in the multilateral phase of the talks.

Japan is chairing the talks on the environment and participating in the sessions on regional economic cooperation, water, refugees and arms control.

"The multilaterals are vital to the bilateral talks. They help create the atmosphere of negotiation and help all sides understand each other," Mr. Nonoyama said.

"This is the first time Japan participated in the peace process and we would very much like to contribute to the progress of the talks," the outgoing ambassador said.

The newly appointed Japanese ambassador to Jordan is Yuji Ikeda who is due to arrive in Amman sometime in December.

Official calls for increased agricultural exports to Europe

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has good opportunities for exporting fruits and vegetables to European countries from the end of November until April each year, according to Saleem Al Lawzi, director general of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO).

During this period of the year European countries produce little or no fresh fruits and vegetables for their people and so turn to countries with warm climates for imports, said Dr. Lawzi on his return to Amman after a tour of a number of east European states.

Dr. Lawzi, who was accompanied by a delegation comprising representatives of the transport sector and Jordanian merchants and exporters, toured countries in east Europe to study their potentials of absorbing Jordanian agricultural products and prospects for exports.

He said that his team held talks with importers of the private and public sectors in Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria on the prospect of increasing Jordanian exports to their markets. Dr. Lawzi said that Jordan can export oranges, lemons, tomatoes, and pepper to these three countries and AMO can pave the ground for such procedures.

The AMO will soon provide importers in east Europe with a list of the types of products that can be imported from Jordan along with prices and quantities to meet their needs during the winter months of the year, said Dr. Lawzi. He explained that Jordanian agricultural exports will be shipped by Jordanian-owned refrigerated trucks.

Jordan, traditionally exports its agricultural crops to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, but exports were curtailed in the wake of the Gulf crisis and are slowly being resumed.

Saudi Arabia which until the eruption of the Gulf crisis imported 70 per cent of Jordan's annual agricultural exports of around 500,000 tonnes turned back several vegetable trucks laden with vegetables after it claimed that random tests showed a high level of pollutants although this was denied by Agriculture Minister Faysal Khasawneh.

Dr. Lawzi told the Jordan Times that all Gulf countries still buy Jordanian agricultural products but not Saudi Arabia although contacts are underway for the resumption of Jordanian cultural exports. Dr. Lawzi said that Jordan is currently selling agricultural products to the United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and France. He said that he is planning to visit Russia, Poland and Czechoslovakia in order to promote the sale of Jordanian agricultural products.

Asked on the quantities of products to be imported by the three east European countries, Dr. Lawzi said that private and public organisations have asked for specifications and rates of prices. In principle, Rumania will initially buy 22 trucks of vegetables and fruits as a first shipment while Hungary and Bulgaria have not yet specified the amounts he said that trade could be either in the form of barter or direct cash payment but arrangements are still to be worked out bilaterally.

Logistics discussed concerning returnees' claims

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kababji Saturday chaired a meeting for a committee entrusted with following up the question of ensuring the compensation of Jordanian expatriates forced out of Kuwait in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

The committee reviewed procedures concerning the distribution and filling out of forms issued by the special U.N. committee on compensating people affected by the Gulf crisis.

Ministry officials said that the forms are expected to provide details about claims by individuals and organisations concerning damages caused as a result of the war. Some of these claims exceed \$100,000.

The committee endorsed the Labour Ministry's special arrangements for the distribution and processing of these forms which will eventually find their way to the United Nations in New York. The forms which are to be distributed during this week to the concerned individuals and organisations, should be filled and returned during November so that they can be forwarded to the U.N. committee, the officials said. They added that together with the forms, the expatriates should attach documents to support their claims.

Another committee meeting is scheduled for two days time and will take further steps in this regard.

Arabs unite in aviation cooperation

By Peter Saters
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — To strengthen their competitive position in the increasingly turbulent skies of the international airline industry, Jordan and five other Arab states last week established the Arab Civil Aviation Corporation (ACAC) to pursue and protect Arab airline interests worldwide.

Prompted by the looming 1993 unification of the European aviation administrations, the ACAC was founded last Sunday in Cairo by the director generals of the civil aviation authorities of Jordan, Bahrain, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Saudi Arabia. All Arab states will be included in its membership.

"By establishing (the ACAC), we will be able to meet any challenges that may arise," said an administrative official with the Jordan Civil Aviation Authority. Because other regional blocs have similar committees, he said, Arab states need to forge "a common policy" to remain competitive.

The official explained that when bargaining with the Europeans over landing rights, for example, Jordan has a much stronger position when supported by the ACAC than if it were to stand alone.

The ACAC, as of yet without a firm agenda, will concern itself with governmental logistics, while the Arab Air Carriers' Organisation will continue to deal with commercial matters.

Ahmad Jweiber, director of the Jordanian Civil Aviation Authority, will serve as Jordan's representative to the corporation. The first meeting planned for sometime in late November or December, said the official.

The ACAC is not the first such unified civil aviation committee in the Arab World. In 1989, according to the official, the Arab League disbanded the Arab Civil Organisation Council, questioning its efficiency. But, he added optimistically, "we are looking at things in a different perspective."

Tafleeh faces water shortage

TAFLEH (Petra) — Local authorities in the Tafleeh Governorate have taken measures designed to deal with the acute shortage of drinking water.

Engineer Hammad Khreish, director of the water authority in the Tafleeh region said that the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) has discovered that the shortage was due to the low level of underground water. Which is being utilised through the Shobak Artesian well used to supply Tafleeh and other southern regions with water.

Mr. Khreish said that WAJ is now pumping water to the Tafleeh region from the Rabda and Hadid Artesian wells and is supplying population settlements with water from a third well to meet the demand.



Swatch: Art of everyday life

Everyday life is an art form. And art is everyday life. These are times when anything goes, when what's happening on the street is every bit as important culturally as what's hanging on the wall at the art gallery. The world's a village. Brought into your living room at the touch of a button. Instantaneous communication is no longer the stuff of dreams. It's reality for all of us. Cross-over and redesign are the buzz words of a new preception of culture, the truly multicultural society just a question of time.

That's something not only Swatch but a whole generation of avant-garde artists and designers proved so convincingly in the late 80s. So it's no coincidence that Vivienne Westwood and Iqort, two of the most impressive exponents of this new networked idea of art, have designed the highlights in the new Swatch and POP Swatch Collection.

Putti is the name of Westwood's first POP Swatch, which the high priestess of fashion sees as a perfect accompaniment to her new-Baroque clothing collection.

Another Westwood model is in the pipeline and will be appearing as a POP Swatch Special in spring.

Yuri, the Iqort Swatch, is both a homage to Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space, and to a Swatch philosophy that has taken the world by storm.

Putti and Yuri will be available with dozens of other new Swatch and POP Swatch models at retail outlets from 1 September. And as always, they'll be Swiss-made, quartz precise with a one-year guarantee.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Kabariti to act as Public Works and Housing minister
AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Saturday appointing Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kababiti as acting Minister of Public Works and Housing during the period of the absence of Saad Hayel Surour abroad. Mr. Surour left for Cairo Saturday to participate in the meeting of the Council of Arab Ministers of Housing and Construction due to open there Sunday. The meetings will last for five days.

North Shuneh municipal elections begin Monday
NORTH SHUNEH (Petra) — The municipal elections of the North Shuneh town will be held Monday. Seventeen candidates are vying for seven seats in the municipal council of the town. The north Jordan Valley District Governor Saleh Obaidat said 6,146 eligible voters have registered for the elections. He said the district has allocated 10 polling centres in the town.

Balloon rally press conference to be held Sunday
AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Tourism secretary general and a representative of Royal Jordanian (RJ) will speak at a press conference at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel in Amman Sunday to announce a programme of a Royal Jordanian Balloon Rally to be held on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday on Nov. 14. The Nov. 14-17 rally, to be held at Wadi Rum, is co-sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism and Royal Jordanian.

Accounting course for cashiers begins
AMMAN (Petra) — A course for cashiers at the Ministry of supply started Saturday at the Jordan Management Institute in Amman. The five-day course aims to provide participants with information needed in accounting fields to improve their skills.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and are subject to change. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Photography exhibition of Petra at the Amman Marriott Hotel.
- Exhibition of oil paintings by Jordanian artist Omar Hamdan at Alina Art Gallery.
- Sculpture exhibition at the International Expo Centre, University Road.
- Photography exhibition entitled "Jordan" by Jordanian artist Alim Al-Sagoff at the University of Jordan.
- Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artists Ismail Fattah, Lisa Fattah and Mohammad Mahraddin at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (opening ceremony at 6 p.m.).

FILM

Feature film entitled "Risky Business" (Tom Cruise and Kevin Costner — 99 minutes) at the American Centre — 6 p.m.

"Citius, Altius, Fortius"

Horizon Advertising and Communications held its network wide management meeting recently on the Greek island of Corfu. The meeting focused on client services with the theme: "Citius, Altius, Fortius" — the Latin Olympic motto that translates to "Faster, Higher, Stronger."

Attending the meeting were Horizon managers representing all offices, including some new comers from the network's Paris liaison office and the expanding offices of Beirut and Kuwait, in addition to team members from Athens, Dubai, Jeddah and Amman.



Horizon managers in Corfu

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

Expatriates' return — burden or blessing?

Foreign observers, diplomats and visiting journalists are puzzled. They are unable to reconcile our contradictory statements regarding the economic impact on the country of the return of expatriates, following their massive punishment. We told the world at one time that this return raised the population of Jordan in an exceptional manner and created a huge burden on our small economy which was already overburdened by various pressures, not least of which is unemployment, exceeding 24 per cent, and foreign indebtedness, twice the size of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). We also estimated the cost of absorbing the returnees to be anything between \$4.5 and 7.5 billion.

Those observers, diplomats, and journalists also heard us saying at other times, and on different occasions, that the return of expatriates was a blessing for Jordan. They have provided badly-needed expertise, they have started many new businesses and investments, they brought along with them huge amounts of their savings in foreign exchange. Moreover, they were responsible for the trade and real estate boom as they created more

effective demand, not only on goods and services, but also on houses, offices and land, which raised their prices and ignited a wave of construction which, in turn, helped revive the economy and create a lot of new jobs in the process.

Was the return of expatriates from Kuwait a blessing or a burden? What was their net impact on the Jordanian economy? Did their return cause prosperity or depression, and was it a push forward or an additional burden on the back of the country?

The reality is that the return of expatriates was not entirely good or totally bad. There are positive results that some commentators concentrated on, but there are negative consequences that other commentators would like to dwell upon. Each side is telling half the truth. No wonder that foreign observers, diplomats and journalists are perplexed and troubled, thinking that they may have been intentionally misled or misinformed.

Having said that the consequences were both good and bad, it may be equally important to point out that the positive short-term impact comes first — the expatriates did not come back to Jordan empty handed. They brought home with them several hundreds of millions of dollars. They started new businesses, bought houses or

built them and revived the market, causing a small trade prosperity at least for some time. The negative impact, on the other hand, and the burdens that go with it are medium and long term. They do not show up immediately. The returning expatriates created a need for more hospitals, schools, houses, water, electricity, communications and a range of other facilities. The needed infrastructure will cost billions of dollars over the coming five years.

As an emergency solution we are able to crowd 55 students in a classroom meant to accommodate 35 and to install three beds in a hospital room that was designed to contain two beds. Such solutions cannot work forever. Eventually, we have to build the extra infrastructure, and incur the heavy cost.

The economic impact of the sudden return of Jordanian expatriates is similar to the impact of liquor on the human body. The pleasure comes first, for a short period of time, while the bitterness and the damaging effect will come and be felt later on.

We are now in the stage of pleasure and the impression of well-being. The difficult aftermath will follow, unless Jordan receives massive foreign aid and substantial debt relief.

3 days and counting

WITH THE U.S. presidential elections fast approaching, a closer look at Bill Clinton's probable foreign policy would be in order in view of the still high probability that he will still get elected in spite of the erosion of his earlier lead against the other contenders, President George Bush and independent Ross Perot. Where Clinton differs in a remarkable way from the incumbent president is in his global perspective. Although this difference has yet to be spelled out in greater detail it is already obvious that Governor Clinton seeks less involvement in the international affairs in favour of greater interest and investment in domestic matters. This inward looking posture has been amplified to mean, for one thing, a gradual shrinkage of U.S. presence in Western Europe. When this perspective is extended to its logical conclusion, it is bound to mean a lower than usual profile for Washington in many regions of the world including of course the Middle East.

What would be even more eventful than his support for Israel, as far as the Arab-Israeli conflict and the ongoing peace process is concerned, is the strong possibility that he will leave the parties to the conflict on their own to find an amicable solution free from U.S. prodding or pressure. This outlook on things by Clinton would also affect the Gulf region where he cannot be expected to flex American muscle in the area so hastily as President Bush had done in 1990/91 over the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq.

No wonder the Iraqi leadership has been busy heaping praise on Clinton and expressing its good wishes for him for the Nov. 3 elections. Of course such an Iraqi outspokenness in support of the Democratic candidate is exactly the wrong support that Clinton could wish for at this stage.

But leaving this issue aside for the moment, there is no doubt that Clinton would introduce new policies regarding the Gulf region as well, where the use or the threat of the use of force would be reduced to manageable proportions. This is not surprising since Clinton had questioned all along the White House's deployment of American air, sea and land forces to strike rather prematurely against Iraq in early 1991.

But what would apply to the Middle East and Gulf regions would probably also apply to the other regions of the world where Washington still maintains strong presence. When the picture to be drawn by a Clinton administration is completed it would be one that suggests the relinquishing of some superpower status, but not as far as the former Yugoslavia is concerned. This is one part of the world where Clinton departs from his inward looking overall policy since he is on record as sanctioning a more forceful U.S. policy against the Serbs.

Meanwhile it appears that American voters are changing their voting preferences and shifting their allegiance from one candidate to the other. When this game is over on Nov. 3, there will be better occasion to assess exactly what was really happening behind the scenes in the United States during the 1992 presidential elections. The jolts occurring in the last few days on the presidential race must be forcing the American voters to press their heads hard for a final judgement. In less than three days we will all know what they had in mind all along.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily Saturday described an agreement reached by the Jordanian and the Israeli teams at the peace negotiations as one simple and limited step along the long journey in search of peace. It is because the Jordanian side showed determination to adhere to the Arab rights that the first steps have been reached, said the paper. Agreement on the agenda for the talks can by no means indicate that everything has been paved for a final conclusion in the near future, but it should mean that such a step was only possible after long and tedious discussions that took more than one year, to accomplish, said the daily. It said that the agreement only fixed the nature of topics to be tackled by the two sides involved in the peace process and it is hoped that similar agreements would be reached soon along the other Arab-Israeli tracks. The paper stressed the Jordanian position of aiming at reaching a comprehensive peace and the full implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. It noted that while agreement on the Jordanian-Israeli agenda was reached, pessimism still surrounded the whole process due to the fact that one year of talks yielded no concrete results. Should the Israelis continue to prevaricate and stall, it would not be a surprise to anyone if the whole peace process collapsed on all tracks.

A COLUMNIST in Sawt Al Shaab daily attacked Turkey for what he said was genocide against the Kurdish rebels. Salameh Ekour said that Turkey can never deny the 12 million Kurds living in its southern regions their rights to self-determination. The Kurdish population in Turkey has been for several years exposed to brutal attacks and repression at the hands of the Turkish authorities, but the Kurds will never give up their struggle for self-rule, no matter how brutal the attacks against them, said the writer. He said that a visitor to the Kurdish territory in southern Turkey can easily reveal the abject poverty the Kurds are living in and the miserable life they lead because of Turkey's unjust rule. Whole villages in the Arda do not have schools, newspapers do not reach the majority of the Kurdish areas and the people lead a life more or less similar to that prevailing Middle Ages in Europe, said Ekour. A Kurd living in Turkey has no right to government positions or serve in the armed forces; the Kurds are subjected to continuous repression and their young men are allowed only to bandage menial jobs, the writer said. He added that Turkey, which was aligned against Iraq in the Gulf crisis and which has been instigating the Iraqi Kurds against the Iraqi government, has now fallen in the pit that it has dug for others and is now facing a war of attrition launched by the Kurds who are demanding their freedom and their rights.

Ross, George or Bill... should we care who runs the 'Mill'?

By Izzat R. Dajani

ONE OF the most fundamental criteria of the United States presidential elections is the simple fact that the electorate in general tends to vote more for the person and personality of the presidential nominee than purely adheres to its respective party's choice as candidate for the U.S. presidency. Henceforth, many a Republican may cast his/her vote in favour of the Democratic Party's nominee and vice versa. This "scene" may be further complicated when an independent runs for the presidency too, as is the case with Ross Perot.

The U.S. presidency is not a place for amateurs. It is a place for men of politics but by no means is it a place for every politician, said Richard Newstadt in his book Presidential Power. If the president wants to maintain his power for the future, he must guard it in the present. He must guard when he appraises the effects of present action on the sources of his influence. This may represent one of the main difficulties and challenges facing George Bush particularly now as his first term as president draws to a close.

The president is the focal point of politics and policy in the American political system. The public opinion on a president in America may be quite different from his standing with constituents abroad. This is a rather important phenomenon and worthy of noting as people outside the U.S., including those with official standing, often make the mistake of directly linking presidential popularity or unpopularity abroad to that in the U.S. They then put emphasis, build hopes or cast various doubts on the person of the president, leading sometimes to grave disillusion as a result of their "perceived fact".

In this context, Tip O'Neill, infamous long-time speaker of the House of Representatives, once said: "Politics starts at home."

The president's position abroad was higher than that at home in most of President Truman's years and lower than that at home in most of President Eisenhower's.

When Americans judge a president, they are concerned with what he is liked for and how many like him. Hence the importance of opinion polls in the U.S. and their influence on personalities and policies alike.

Most Arabs remain committed to their flimsily drawn profile of "perceived fact" that George Bush must be reelected as he is, in their opinion, the only true catalyst for the Middle East peace process. Without him, they seem to believe, the process will be forlorn. This is a misconceived perception as the policy on the Middle East is the U.S. official policy and is not confined to the person of the president even though momentum may vary according to priorities drawn by the "Man running the Mill".

Arabs must realise and accept the fact that the domestic policy by far outweighs in importance any foreign policy which, in turn, identifies and signals what the American people are concerned with. How one works on creating interest in one's cause is for the Arab power-brokers to work on and live with.

American families no longer feel secure about themselves or their institutions. They feel as if they have lost control of their destiny. There is a decline of real income for almost all Americans and wealth is outrageously concentrated in the hands of the top one per cent of the population. America is going through a period of self-examination as most Americans want to know if they are as strong as those who came before them and who fought hard to make America the great power it is now. We all

remember the days when people revelled about the "American dream". Now, we hear more of the "American nightmare": rising unemployment, deteriorating health and education services, alarming crime rates, budget deficit in billions of dollars, homelessness, shrinking productivity and overall recession. What threatens America now is the low-wage economy, lagging competitiveness, lack of jobs, crumbling infrastructure, despair and finally, but most importantly, the unwillingness to admit it all. Welfare constitutes only 3 per cent of the federal budget when defence spending constitutes 24 per cent and net interest payments on the national debt 15 per cent.

The first step in rebuilding America is a commitment to invest in people on the front side of life, according to Reverend Jesse Jackson in "The True World Order: Rebuild America".

In Connecticut, America's state with the highest income per capita, they are closing schools but building jail cells. If one goes to the penitentiary for a year, it costs the U.S. government \$36,000. If one goes to Yale University for a year, the cost is \$18,000. Isn't it ironic? It clearly makes more sense to invest in pre-natal care and day-care on the front side of life than jail care and welfare on the back side!

The organising principle remains that government's purpose and method should be defined by the services the people need and want, not by what the system is currently designed to deliver. This may be among the main challenges facing today's America for which a clear paradigm needs to be instituted, particularly when the responses of the U.S. system remain markedly dependent on the person of the president. Presidential power has been and can remain very much personalised. It is interesting to note that the British cabinet system tends to cover up the weaknesses and show the strengths of the person in the top seat of government; America's system tends to do just the opposite.

Leadership is a special form of power. The power resources available to the U.S. president are enormous. They range from economic to political, military, social, institutional and psychological. The president draws from his power bases the resources of others upon whom he exercises power. He faces demands for aid and action from five distinguishable sources: executive officials, Congress, his party members, citizens at large and people abroad. The challenge remains connected with what he can accomplish to improve the prospect that he will have influence when he wants it. The main demands the president faces centre upon:

— Social programmes, whereby public services have the most direct effects on private lives.

— Economic issues that are resource-based and incorporate ailing symptoms such as inflation and recession.

— Events abroad and their effects on America's spheres of influence.

— Interest groups, particularly the press and various lobbies.

Americans need to reexamine their country's official ideology particularly as we are approaching the 21st century with its new challenges, such as the environment and the economy, which can be daunting for the unprepared. Choices need to be made about the kind of presidency and government Americans think appropriate to their needs. It is interesting to note in this context that if one wants to know what we really value in our society, we must look at what we are willing to pay, as Harvard President Emeritus Derek Bok once said. Over the last 20 years in the U.S., groups that have experi-

enced large salary increases included chief executive officers (CEOs), sports and entertainment figures, lawyers, surgeons, radiologists and anaesthesiologists. Groups experiencing uneven growth, but ending up where they were, included college professors, teachers, internists and general practitioners. Leading those whose salaries have dramatically decreased are public officials who have lost 30 per cent in real income in the past 20 years. This is a very serious finding as it may provide some answers to the deteriorating quality of public officials with the ensuing inferior public policies and activities.

In the American Civil War a very serious situation faced President Lincoln when one third of the states were withdrawing from the union. Nowadays, the American political system is faced with probably as grave a situation when nearly half the population have withdrawn from the political process by not voting. This is certainly a crisis for any democracy and it definitely indicates that U.S. politics have lost respect among the people at large.

For the Arabs, the issue that interests them most is U.S. commitment to a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict. They feel more reassured by the Republican president. But in our belief, there is no U.S. president who can be referred to as "pro-Arab". It may be more accurate to measure the president's attitude as a relative refraction or deviation from the long American commitment to Israel. It must be stressed here that while the Arabs laid back and did nothing in support of their just cause, Israel concentrated constantly on weaving itself in the very fabric of U.S. policy-making apparatus. It understood the importance of this and wanted to ensure that Israel shall never be discarded. The *raison d'être* for any politician is to be elected, and winning an election requires money and votes. Organised pro-Israeli groups have been able to deliver both in quantities far greater than their numerical size would suggest, particularly when they constitute just over three per cent of the American population.

It may be argued that the Democrats have always been staunch supporters of Israel. But we will be disillusioned if we thought the Republicans were otherwise. When Lawrence Eagleburger, then deputy secretary of state, visited Israel as Mr. Bush's special envoy in the aftermath of Iraq's missile attacks on the country, he declared: "Make no mistakes on the fundamentals: The interests of the U.S. and Israel will always be equal."

Opinion polls are invariably accurate but not always correct. However, it appears that Bill Clinton stands the better chance of winning the presidency. He will run the "Mill"! He may represent the change in attitude, personality and aptitude that America may need in the new world order it created and constituted. He is interested in creating a national leadership and national strategy to maintain the U.S. position in the international economy. He wants the president to become an instrument of the American national unity as the presidency once was. He is very promising and full of ideas that are young and bright, just as he is. It is our responsibility to instill our concerns in the U.S. agenda. It may be an appropriate time to learn the importance of weaving the Arab interest, supported by the just Arab cause, in the very fabric of U.S. policy-making apparatus just as Israel did for many, many years. If George Bush happens to make an unexpected win, then we must progress from believing in our show of good intentions to very active and aggressive work. And indeed, we should care who runs the Mill.

Madrid, Washington... incomplete circle, unfinished business

One year on, hope rears its head among pessimism on peace in the region

By P.V. Vivekanand and Laney Salisbury

AMMAN — One year after the launching of the Middle East peace process, the Arab side remains hampered by a weak negotiating position and risks having to accept peace on Israel's terms, according to analysts and observers.

They say that if the present state of disunity and mistrust persists in the Arab World, the Arabs will find themselves having to settle for much less than their demand that Israel withdraw from the territories the Jewish state seized in the 1967 war.

The slow pace of negotiations to end the 44-year-old Arab-Israeli conflict is indeed a disappointment, but then it would have been wishful thinking to have expected any major breakthrough in 12 months, partially because of the complexities involved which have defied every mediation effort since the creation of the state of Israel in 1948.

The very fact that there is an ongoing process to find answers to the drawn-out conflict is perhaps the best consolation for the Arabs, who, over the past decades, have found themselves forced to periodically scale down their minimum demands for peace with Israel, according to diplomats.

At the other end of the spectrum, analysts and observers point out that it is very much in Israel's interest to continue the engagement in the peace process.

They note that Israel has lost much of its "strategic value" to its financier and protector, the United States, with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the emerging strategic alliance between the U.S. and the Gulf states.

Israel's usefulness to Washington would be assured only if it integrates itself economically and politically within the Arab-dominated regional system and assumes the role of an effective political actor in the post-cold war and post-Gulf war era, they point out.

The Gulf war demonstrated that Israel was more of a liability to the U.S. than an asset, said a Jordanian diplomat, recalling that Washington had to rush military equipment to protect the Jewish state and persuade it to stay put against Iraqi missile attacks lest the Arab component of the anti-Iraq coalition falter.

Israel, which had assumed strategic importance for American policy-makers preoccupied with fears of a Soviet thrust into the Middle East until the end of the last year, can no longer count on rubber-stamp approval of aid from the U.S. Congress.

"Israel needs to find accommodation with the Arabs not only for political reasons but also for economic reasons, such as trade with the Arab World, since it cannot hope for uninterrupted western financial assistance in view of the shift in the regional pattern," noted a senior government official.

The Israeli approach is evident in its participation in some of the working groups of the multilateral phase of Arab-Israeli peace talks dealing with issues such as water, the environment, refugees, regional economic cooperation and arms control.

By the same token, the lucid Arab approach to the multilaterals and several joint projects stems from a disinclination to normalise relations with Israel at a multilateral level while the crux of the political conflict remains unaddressed at the bilateral level.

Against this backdrop, analysts say, an Israeli seriousness in the peace process could be discerned. The Israeli leadership sees peace as the best conduit to build economic and political bridges with the Arab World, but it is obviously seeking to get the maximum while giving the minimum.

Seven rounds of bilateral peace talks — only two of them after the change of government in Israel in

June — have so far led to an Israeli commitment to partially withdraw from the Golan Heights in return for "peace" with its archrival Syria. Damascus, however, has not yet defined what it means by peace.

Jordan and Israel have drafted a joint document to guide the peace parleys. The document is the first solid Jordanian move signalling an eventual acceptance of a peace treaty leading to full normalisation of ties with Israel, but only after several disagreements are resolved, including an end to Israel's occupation of about 600 square kilometres of Jordanian territory and solutions to refugee and security issues.

In the Palestinian track, Israel has agreed to interim rule in the territories under an administrative council with limited powers, far short of the 100-member legislative assembly demanded by the Palestinians.

Lebanon stayed at the negotiating table despite recent Israeli shelling of its southern and northern lands and despite the Israeli refusal to withdraw troops from a strip of south Lebanese territory, used as a buffer against guerrilla attacks. But, then again, there cannot be movement on the Lebanese front without progress on the Syrian front since Syria continues to reign supreme as the power-broker in its eastern neighbour.

In sum, what Israel has offered so far to Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians falls far below the "bottom line" that the Arabs would accept, Jordanian analysts and observers say.

"What Israel has offered so far is not acceptable to any of the parties," noted a seasoned, well-placed Jordanian analyst. "They have not given any sign that they want to speed up the process."

Despite the obvious Israeli posture and the shortcomings in its approach, the Arabs have no choice but to pursue the negotiations, hoping that the right pieces will fall into the right places as the process moves along.

But, western diplomats argue, the Arabs cannot hope to get ahead without taking "confidence-building measures".

The western argument says that the government of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has taken "political risks" by the partial halt of settlements in the occupied territories, release of "security prisoners", cancelling explosion orders issued against Palestinian activists and generally declaring its acceptance of some form of "territorial compromise" with the Arabs.

Western diplomats also argue that Mr. Rabin has clearly signalled his desire to move the process forward, unlike his predecessor Yitzhak Shamir who was in power during the first eight months of the year-old peace negotiations.

"At the beginning, Arabs said if Shamir would just make one little gesture, they would double his moves," said one western diplomat. "We cannot deny Rabin has made gestures, but the Arabs seem to expect only the Israelis to move."

"The Arabs have to bite the bullet at some point," he said. "They cannot hope for Israel to give them political cover throughout the process."

However, Arab "reciprocation" to Israel would be possible only if the Jewish state moves to clear some of the more fundamental obstacles hampering the peace talks — including its rejection of the Palestinian

"right of return" and the ambiguous has imposed on the future of occupied territories after an interim period of three years.

"The issue of refugees and displaced people is one of the elements of the Jordanian approach," said the analyst.

"Jordan or any other Arab cannot conclude any agreement any nature with Israel unless an able solution is found to resolve the dimension of the conflict," he said. Syria and Lebanon also have hordes of thousands of Palestinian refugees.

Within a broader framework, Israeli insistence that there would be a "full withdrawal in exchange for peace" is attributed to the absence of a coherent and total Arab support for the parties engaged in the negotiations.

"As long as there is no unanimity backing for the Arab negotiating position, it is a foregone conclusion that the net outcome of the process will be much short of Arab quest for a fair and just settlement of the conflict," said Mr. Abdullah, chairman of the Syrian Science Department of the University of Jordan.

Dr. Abdullah described as "one of the dilemmas" the positions of four different Arab parties negotiating in different tracks, each of which enjoys the upper hand as a result of the Arab weakness.

"We have no negotiating strategy with Israel," he said. "There indeed positives and negatives in peace process, but I am not optimistic that the process would produce an equitable peace settlement compatible with the Arab position."

Under the present conditions, Israel is in a comfortable position to play one Arab side off against another and create rifts in the Arab positions, he said, citing as an example the focus that the Israelis have given to the "progress" made in the Syrian-Israeli track of negotiations.

The Israeli assertions have caused fears among the Palestinians that Damascus could cut a separate peace deal with Israel without a solution to their problem.

At the same time, Syria, which steadily found itself losing "nationalist" edge it enjoyed in Arab World after joining the Arab coalition and the end of a bipolar international order, stood aloof to keep the negotiations without any agreement.

"The talks have given Syria a status," said a non-Jordanian political scientist. "It is a strong rush to come to a settlement over Golan Heights. The Syrian thinking of minimum loss, not maximum benefit."

Commenting on possibilities of a separate Syrian-Israeli deal, said by Mr. Rabin and other Israeli leaders, the Jordanian analyst said: "A man was going ahead with the commitment and understanding among all Arab sides that there be no piecemeal solutions."

"This was made very clear in last coordinating meeting (Amman two weeks ago) of the foreign ministers," the analyst asserted.

The Jordanian quest for a coordinated agenda for talks with Israel has been perceived by the West as an unorthodox tactic while waiting for a Palestinian-Israeli table to progress.

JORDAN ECONOMIC MONITOR

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1992
By Dr. Fehed Al...

Peer prosecution rests its case

(Continued from page 1)

he trunk of the deputy's car inside look, and that he had bought a Kalashnikov machinegun and ammunition. Maj. Hijazi also referred to the handwriting expert's testimony that Sheikh Qarash's handwriting was found on cheques written out to Mr. Ayoubi, a paper containing information on what is inside the (Baghdad) Amiriya shelter (which was bombed by the U.S. forces during the Gulf war and which killed hundreds of civilians), and Dr. Ahmad Chalabi's phone number on the same paper.

The prosecutor also referred to the contents of the "internal policy and organizational chart" of Al Nafar group, and cited some of its aims, namely that it aimed to "liberate all of Palestine through jihad and armed struggle, and then liberate the rest of the areas surrounding Palestine."

Maj. Hijazi insisted that the "policy" was written by Mr. Shbeilat, although it was in the handwriting of Mr. Ayoubi. He referred in Mr. Ayoubi's testimony that the "policy" outline was given to him by Sheikh Qarash, but he doubted he could come up with such ideas "because the shleikh is not so smart."

The prosecutor focused on the testimonies of Mr. Ayoubi and Mr. Idkedek to support charges that Sheikh Qarash was in charge, although he also tried to prove that Mr. Shbeilat was the leader and the latter was his deputy based on a wiretapped conversation with each other. Maj. Hijazi insisted that Mr. Shbeilat was "in charge of Jordan (area) and Sheikh Qarash in charge of Palestine (area)."

Mr. Ayoubi's and Mr. Idkedek's lawyer, Marwan Al Kayed, summed up their case by acknowledging that the two defendants — whom he said served in Israeli jails for their resistance against the Israeli occupation — had belonged to an illegal group and had possessed weapons and explosives "that they had received from the first and second defendants," but their aim was to work inside the occupied territories.

Mr. Kayed referred to testimonies made by some of the prosecution witnesses who had testified that the group's aim was neither toppling the regime nor for subversive activities inside the Kingdom. He also referred to a testimony by the explosives expert of the GID who had described the confiscated material as "popular explosives of the simplest kind made locally and used in the occupied territories against the Israeli occupation authorities in the Intifada." He added that his clients were training Palestinians from the occupied territories on how to make and use these explosives.

Mr. Kayed commented that the amounts of explosives found were only sufficient to train Palestinian activists from the West Bank and Gaza.

This contradicts the charge that they belong to an illegal group aiming to topple the regime," he said. "The amount of (seized) explosives is not even enough to blow up one building, and the group's number does not exceed four people," he added to loud laughter inside the courtroom.

Although Maj. Hijazi did not mention two photographs of the American embassy found in Mr. Ayoubi's home, Mr. Kayed said that Mr. Ayoubi had rejected proposals by Sheikh Qarash during the Gulf war to "hit the American, British and French embassies."

The lawyer requested that the court find his two clients innocent of all three charges against them, insisting that their possession of the weapons were for resisting the Israeli occupation "which is legitimate."

Jordanians expect little shift

(Continued from page 1)

Mustafa Hamarneh, head of the strategic studies centre at the University of Jordan, cautions that a totally new wave of politics should be expected if Mr. Clinton makes it to the White House.

"The Democrats have been out of power for 12 years now, and I expect a huge change in personalities in the administration," Dr. Hamarneh says.

For instance, Israel can afford to adopt stalling tactics and "wait out the second term of President Bush, knowing fully well that he won't be in for a third term," according to Dr. Abdullah.

At the same time, in view of the focus that Mr. Bush gave to foreign policy since his presidency in 1988, the incumbent president "is not someone who would allow himself to be a lame-duck, regardless of terms in the White House," says the government official.

Mr. Clinton's early campaign courting of the Jewish community in the states could also be seen more as vote-getting ploy than an actual sign of a possible future foreign policy platform.

Palestinian leaders to review talks

(Continued from page 1)

and other world leaders to intervene to break the logjam in the talks, which he blamed on Israel.

Rabin rejects linkage

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Saturday the year-old Middle East peace talks had not succeeded and he would have preferred to negotiate with Arab delegations one at a time.

"Until today, multi-sided bilateral talks simultaneously in the same place have not succeeded. No agreement has come out of this," Mr. Rabin told Israel Radio in an interview.

Mr. Rabin said he did want to change the framework but warned Arab partners not to insist on a comprehensive peace agreement that encompasses all parties.

"We will not agree to linkage of progress with one delegation or progress or lack of progress with another delegation," he said.

"I would not choose the Madrid framework as the ideal framework for achieving peace," Mr. Rabin said. "From 1949-1979 we reached li-

vinced Mr. Rabin would know how to overcome such incidents in view of progress in the peace process.

Israel has criticized Syria for not reining in the resistance, but Mr. Rabin said Saturday any Israeli threats to suspend the peace talks until Syria mended its ways would be fruitless.

Mr. Rabin said negotiators representing the previous hardline Israeli government demanded at each session that Syria stop resistance attacks against Israel.

"So, what happened? Did the terror operations stop? Talk doesn't solve these problems. Threats to pull out of the talks in my view only encourage Hizbollah and Palestinian organisations hostile to the talks to step up their activities," Mr. Rabin said.

Israel's chief negotiator with Syria, Itamar Rabinovich, said Syria had used its leverage to quell guerrilla attacks from Lebanon.

"It has become clear that our and others' quiet diplomacy has worked and the Syrians are using their influence to calm things," Mr. Rabinovich told Israel Radio Saturday.

Mr. Rabin also said Saturday he was entitled to deal more harshly than before with Palestinian violence and defended army undercover tracking Arab activists against liberal critics.

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Iraqi Jordanian Land Transport Co. TENDER NO. (B/92)

The Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Co. intends to sell quantity of brand new spare parts for Styer truck-tractors. Customs duties unpaid.

Copies of terms and conditions and lists of spare parts can be bought from the company's main offices in Jabal Amman, between Fourth and Fifth Circles, during working hours (0800-1400) for the sum of JD 25, non-refundable, starting from 31/10/1992. Closing date for submitting offers is Tuesday 1/12/1992 (1200 hrs).

**Dr. Shaker Mahadin,
Director General**



Iraqi Jordanian Land Transport Co. TENDER NO. (A/92)

The Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Co. intends to sell 89 used M.A.N. truck tractors.

- Custom duties unpaid
- Offers can be submitted to buy all truck-tractors or any number.
- Truck-tractors can be inspected at the company's garages in Al Azraq, starting from 31/10/1992.
- Copies of terms, conditions, and technical specifications can be bought from the company's main-offices in Jabal Amman between the Fourth and Fifth Circle, during the official working hours (0800-1400) for the sum of JD 100, non-refundable, starting from 31/10/92.
- Closing date for submitting offers is Tuesday 1/12/92 (1200 hrs).

**Dr. Shaker Mahadin,
Director General**

Clinton do any better or worse?

(Continued from page 1)

kept up a litany of pro-Israel statements ever since. He blames Arab rejection of Israel as the "root cause of 45 years of war and unrest in the region and criticises the Bush administration's efforts to obtain concessions from Israel in the peace process. He has said he would move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and in a letter to Jewish leaders stated that he firmly opposed the creation of a Palestinian state.

Mr. Clinton and his running mate, Albert Gore, are both Baptists, conservative Christians often sympathetic to Israel as the fulfilment of prophecy. But so too was Jimmy Carter. Gore has adopted anti-Arab position on a variety of issues from supporting the Likud's four-point peace plan rejected by the Arabs in 1989 and opposing the granting of a visa to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat so he might attend the U.N. General Assembly to rejecting a proposal for forgiving Egypt's debts to the U.S. following the Gulf war.

At least \$15 million in Clinton campaign funds have been raised by Jewish supporters to whom Clinton has promised "never to let Israel down." Among the Clinton-Gore team's advisers are Richard Schiff, the former State Department official charged with reporting on human rights abuses who defended Israel's brutal suppression of the Intifada, and Martin Peretz of the New Republic magazine, which is now the semi-official mouthpiece of Israel in the U.S.

On the positive side, Mr. Clinton has promised continuity and bipartisanship in Middle East policy and to pursue the peace process. His chief adviser on foreign policy is Anthony Lake, former director of policy planning in the State Department and close aide to Cyrus Vance, secretary of state in the Carter administration. Mr. Lake has been tapped for the job of head of the National Security Council. He is known as a liberal and has, until recently, been teaching international relations at a New England women's college far removed from the pressures of Middle East politics. A number of other Clinton aides are close associates of Mr. Lake. Although Mr. Clinton's campaign entourage includes Zionists, many seem to be liberals from the peace camp rather than supporters of the hardline Likud.

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Magic is ready to talk basketball

CHAPEL HILL, North Carolina (AP) — He's talked about AIDS, and most recently, he's even discussed politics. Now, Magic Johnson is ready to talk basketball and let his game do the talking.

After playing in five of eight preseason contests, Johnson is ready to embark on his return to the NBA with the Los Angeles Lakers. It comes one year after he retired from basketball after testing positive for the HIV virus.

"I got my work in, the work that I wanted," Johnson said after the Lakers' final preseason test, a 103-92 loss to the Cleveland Cavaliers. "So now, let's get going."

Johnson will be going next Friday night when the Lakers play their crosstown rivals, the Clippers, and his first challenge will be to improve his rusty shooting touch. He hit 1 of 10 field goal attempts against the Cavaliers at the Dean Smith Center, finishing his five appearances with 14-for-39 shooting for 36 per cent.

Also, the Olympic gold medal-

list handed out 59 assists when he wasn't giving interviews to what he feels has been a surprising media following.

"I've been dealing with the media for a long time, so whatever happens doesn't really surprise me," he said. "They have a job to do, everybody wants a story. So be it. But I deal with it, it's fine, because once you hit the floor, it's all about basketball."

Before getting back to the floor, Johnson has been busy on a number of fronts.

After announcing his retirement, he was appointed to the national commission on AIDS. On Sept. 25, he resigned from that commission after charging that the panel wasn't doing enough to fight the disease.

He followed that announcement with an endorsement for Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton.

"We need a change," Johnson said at a brief news conference prior to the game against the Cavaliers. "We need some fresh ideas."

Ali faces Abu Hamda in a déjà vu Jordan Tennis final

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — It was the same scenario all over again as top-ranked Hani Ali and all-time rival Imad Abu Hamda again reached the final of the Jordan Tennis Championship after overcoming their opponents Saleh Bushnaq and Faris Al Azzouni, respectively.

Ali who is the main contender for the championship title after winning the first and second rounds earlier this year had no trouble eliminating Bushnaq 6-3, 6-1 after an interesting match in which both players gave each other a hard time running from side to side not just hoping to score points but collecting the balls in the strange absence of ball boys to help out in the task.

Abu Hamda had a tougher match against Azzouni who put up a good fight but eventually lost 7-5, 6-3 to the more experienced Abu Hamda.

Bushnaq and Ali held serve at the beginning of the match. However Ali broke his oppo-

nent's serve in the third game but later lost his serve at 2-2. Ali came back to win the next two games to lead 4-2 as Bushnaq played a fast attacking game but lacked effective service. Bushnaq held serve as Ali led 4-3.

Ali won the next game and led 4-30, serving for set point, as the umpire ruled a ball wide but was corrected by Ali who waited for the next point to secure the set.

Ali led 2-0 in the second set. He served two aces in the third game but lost his service. From then on however Ali seemed determined to win the game as swiftly as possible although Bushnaq did not give up easily and scored some beautiful shots before losing the set 6-1.

Ali praised his opponent and seemed bappy about the match.

"Saleh played very well but I won the big points," Ali told the Jordan Times. "I served very well. I had some double



Imad Abu Hamda

faults but that did not make me nervous."

Regarding his retirement plans from competitive tennis, Ali said: "A lot will depend on our results in the Davis Cup. I prefer not to say anything at the moment. We'll see how it goes."

"Maybe it's time to move," Ali, who will be 28 Monday, added.

His opponent Bushnaq commented: "It was a close match — But my service disappointed me. I broke his serve many times. I should have taken



Hani Ali

advantage of that by securing mine," he told the Jordan Times.

In the other match Abu Hamda won the first set 7-5. He led 4-1 in the second set before Azzouni won the next two games trailing 4-3.

Abu Hamda however won the next two games to reach the final against Ali Monday.

Abu Hamda seemed rightly bothered by the total absence of cheering fans as there were no more than 20 people attending the match.

Oman International Rally

Khayat finishes second, appears set to win trophy

MUSCAT (AP) — Saudi Arabia's Mamdouh Khayat finished second behind in the Oman International Rally Friday and appeared set to clinch the Middle East Championship with the fifth and final round still to be held in December.

Oman's national champion, Tony Georgiou, driving a Toyota team Middle East Celta turbo, beat Khayat in this round by five minutes, 22 seconds at the end of the two-day, 715-kilometre contest.

But Georgiou had not taken part in the three earlier rounds of the regional championship to gather points needed to win the regional title of the FISA Middle East Championship.

Khayat, driving a Saudi Rally team Lancia Delta Integrale, took his points tally to 81 — 13 ahead of Lebanese driver Maurice Schnaoui who finished in third place in his Ford Sierra Cosworth.

Schnaoui had been slowed down by mechanical problems, while Khayat had a smooth run.

The 36-year-old Khayat, bidding to become the first Saudi to win the championship, was delighted to boost his lead over the Lebanese, who is known in the motor sports circles as Bagheera. "I am very happy with second position which increases my lead over Bagheera and gives me a little bigger breathing space for the last event in Dubai," scheduled for Dec. 3-4.

The Lebanese champion Schnaoui said his car had not been well prepared for Oman's rugged gravel roads through twisting valleys and plains.

Bagheera, who won the championship's third round in Lebanon in June, said: "The championship is still open but Khayat has the advantage."

Bagheera said his team would have to work hard to improve the car, particularly lower guards that protect the engine against stones.

Of the 20 drivers from six nations who started the rally in Oman, only eleven completed the route.

Patterson backs Ruddock for title

LONDON (AP) — As a two-time titlist who fought Muhammad Ali and Sonny Liston, Floyd Patterson knows what it takes to become world heavyweight boxing champion.

The first man to regain the title when he beat Sweden's Ingemar Johansson in March 1960, Patterson is respected as an ex-champ who stayed close to the fight game without attracting hype and hysteria.

Now 57, Patterson will be in Donovan "razor" Ruddock's corner for the weekend's world title eliminator against unbeaten British fighter Lennox Lewis.

As Ruddock's trainer, Patterson believed his fighter would beat Lewis and go on to win the title.

But he admitted that, with ex-titlist Mike Tyson in jail, the heavyweight division was wide open.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran beats North Korea 2-0, Japan draws with UAE

HIROSHIMA (AP) — Iran, 1990 Asian Games gold medalist, blanked North Korea 2-0 and Japan and United Arab Emirates struggled to a scoreless draw Friday in group A preliminary matches in the Asian Cup soccer tournament. Farshad Peyoos scored Iran's first goal 30 minutes into the first half and Siros Ghayeghran scored Iran's second goal with 10 minutes left in the second half. Japan fought aggressively and outshot UAE seven to one in the first half and nine to five in the second half but failed to break its tight defence, UAE competed in the World Cup in 1990.

Ivanisevic powers past Becker in Stockholm Open

STOCKHOLM (R) — Goran Ivanisevic, powering 14 aces, inflicted a straight sets defeat on defending champion Boris Becker in the Stockholm Open indoor tennis quarter-finals Friday. Croatian fourth seed Ivanisevic beat the sixth-seeded German 7-5, 6-4 to set up a semifinal clash with Stefan Edberg, who ousted Frenchman Arnaud Boetsch 7-5, 7-6. Sweden's Henrik Holm, conqueror of world number one Jim Courier in the third round, appeared on his way to collecting another notable scalp when he served for the match against eighth-seeded Guy Forget. But he lost that game and the resulting tiebreak 7-2 as the Frenchman wrapped up their quarter-final 7-5, 6-7, 7-6. World number two Sampras beat Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia 7-6, 5-7, 6-3.

Paris St. Germain slump to first defeat of season

PARIS (R) — A double strike by ex-international Philippe Vercruysse sent title-chasing Paris St. Germain crashing to their first French Soccer League defeat of the season Friday. Vercruysse's goals spurred Nimes to a 3-2 away victory over the Paris team, who stay second one point behind Nantes. The leaders lost 1-0 at St. Etienne. Brazilian playmaker Valdo thrust Paris ahead by driving in a free kick after 12 minutes but Vercruysse equalised three minutes later with a superb volley. Didier Monczuk put Nimes in front in the 20th minute, and the Paris fans had to wait until the 64th to see their favourite David Ginola make it 2-2. But Vercruysse silenced the Parc Des Princes crowd five minutes from time when he scored from the penalty spot to give Nimes only their second win of the season. On a tough night for the big names, Marseille trailed 2-1 at unfashionable Sochaux with just one minute to go when Jean-Marc Ferret scored to give the champions a 2-2 draw.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1, 1992
By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Fol.

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Making additions to present property holding and assets gives you a feeling of greater well being optimism. Don't procrastinate about doing that special errand that has been on your list for some time.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A day to get into what can be improved in your environment for improvement you make in your environment now can make life easier for you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can just what you can do to extract more pleasure and benefit from your recreational and entertainment interests to devise a wise plan of action.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have lots of things you can do at your residence to make it a more harmonious place to be as well as increase operational efficiency.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Short trips and jaunts for whatever your purposes should work out very much to your satisfaction as well as visits to close comrades.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is a day to take a good look at your property and possessions and to see just what you can do to make them more presentable and valuable.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You are highly personal in your approach to whatever arises and

that is good today since able to make progress your personal wishes.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You now are able to a specific plan for get very, very private and conditions that appeal to most so go after them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Being with those who are discriminating as you greatly in attaining and amusement outlets most is very good.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A very and evening to be out in of action and doing the it that please others and lessway for the future.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) It's a good to decide just where and want to so place your efforts directions that you great your interests.

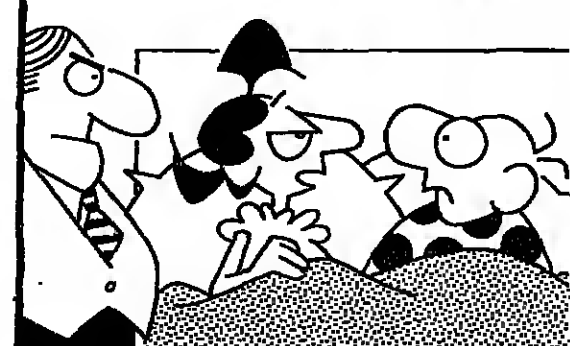
AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 18) Think about agreement or promises made out best so that concerned is satisfied.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) Now you have a gre to get in contact and t partner who is important and converse until understand on another.

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By Har

HARRIS



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JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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JEGUD

QUILOR

HESTOO

Answer here: TO

Yesterday's Jumbles: HONEY GUIDE SPICE POSTAL

Answer: Responsible for that holdup in the back yan CLOTHESPIN

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AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE

Matches played Friday Oct. 30, 1992

TOTS (cup)					
Jordan National Bank	0	vs	DHL	3	
Pepsi	5	vs	Jordan Toothbrush	0	

JUNIORS I:					
Sipes	9	vs	Modern Schools	0	
Kawar	1	vs	CDC	2	

JUNIORS II:					
Nash/Ebb	3	vs	UPS	1	
Seven Up	4	vs	ESCWA	2	

MIDS (cup)					
Petiscoed	4	vs	Taher Meat	2	
GEMT	1	vs	Istikhal	0	
Al Hikma	1	vs	Interet	2	
Araxem	1	vs	Danish Dairy	1	
Araxem won penalty shoot out 5-4					

SENIORS (cup):					
Abrahimia	0	vs	Peugeot	3	
American Kitchen	1	vs	CIBA	1	
American Kitchen won penalty shoot out 4-3					

LEAGUE STANDINGS

	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt.
JUNIORS I						
Sipes	6	0	0	23	4	12
Kawar	3	0	3	10	7	6
CDC	3	0	3	9	6	6
Modern Schools	0	0	6	0	22	0

JUNIORS II:						
ESCWA	4	1	1	19	10	9
Seven-Up	3	1	2	18	13	7
Nash/Ebb	2	2	2	13	13	6
UPS	0	2	4	6	20	2

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Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQ1076 ♠Vold ♠93 ♠AJ10742
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What action do you take?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKQ3 ♠95 ♠K8762 ♠83
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

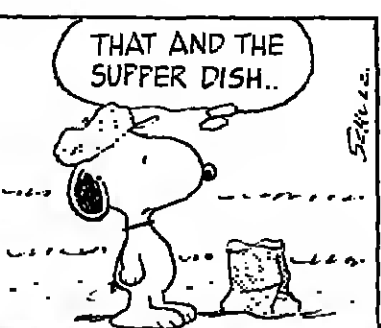
Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKQ3 ♠95 ♠K8762 ♠83
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQ ♠AK8542 ♠AQ8 ♠883
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠QJ73 ♠A6 ♠9 ♠AK10762
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKQ3 ♠95 ♠K8762 ♠83
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

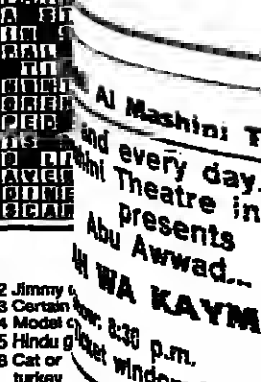
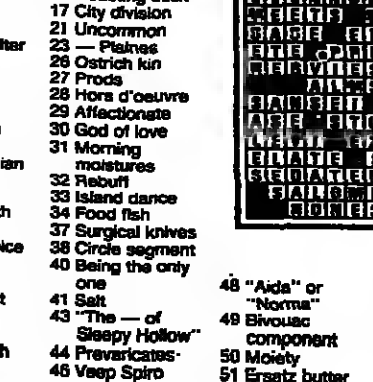
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



conomy

Publishers Reed, Elsevier settle new terms to create world giant

ON (R) — Reed International and Elsevier have set final terms for a planned merger to create one of the world's biggest publishing groups. The two firms were forced to accept the merger after the suspension of the membership of the European Community's Exchange Rate Mechanism on Sept. 16 brought a steep fall in the pound against the guilder.

Under the new terms, both will still have equal shares in the merged company. But Reed International PLC now gets a stake of about 5.8 per cent in Elsevier N.V., instead of the 11.5 per cent first envisaged.

Publishing analysts welcomed the news that turmoil in currency markets had not souped the merger.

"Relief is the word," said Vignesh Padiahy of Barclays de Zoete Wedd, adding, "this is such a good deal it would've been shame if it had been ruined by currency fluctuations."

Analysts see the merger as a good deal for both sides. For Reed, which has a spread of consumer and business publishing operations, it is expected to bring a broader base for revenue with less emphasis on cyclical consumer publishing.

Paris Club reschedules Mali's debt

PARIS (AP) — Creditor governments have agreed to reschedule up to 50 per cent of the sovereign debt of the West African nation of Mali, the Paris Club announced Friday.

The Paris Club, an informal group of creditor governments that meets regularly in the French capital to discuss official debt of developing countries, did not say how much debt Mali is carrying.

The World Bank's most recent debt tables, from 1990, showed that Mali had \$2.433 billion of total debt.

The rescheduling, which applies to payments on loans and credits, will be reviewed in three years, the communiqué said.

Under the terms, creditors have a choice of writing off 50 per cent of non-concessional loans and credits and consolidate the remainder at market rates over 23 years, including a six-year grace period.

Or, they can consolidate at concessional rates, reducing by 50 per cent in net present value terms; payments on non-concessional loans and credits over 23 years, with a six-year grace period.

In addition, the maturities on development aid provided by creditors will be rescheduled over a "very long term," the statement said.

U.S. regulators close 20 insolvent Texas banks

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. banking regulators said late Friday that they closed 20 insolvent banks affiliated with First City Bancorporation of Texas in the nation's third biggest bank bailout.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) has established "bridge banks" to assume deposits and other assets and liabilities of First City Houston and First City Dallas, whose assets total \$3.8 billion, and the 18 other banks.

The banks are insolvent, said Andrew Hove Jr. the acting chairman of the FDIC.

Operating under the bridge bank arrangement, subsidiaries of the Houston-based First City will open under FDIC supervision during their regular business hours.

"The FDIC's action is particularly significant because it is the second time First City Bancorporation has been closed at a high cost to the fund," said Senator Don Riegle, Michigan Democrat and chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, referring to a federal bill to help bailout insolvent banks.

The FDIC already has pumped almost \$1 billion into the First City banking system since 1988 in an effort to shore up the ailing bank.

Regulators estimated the new action will cost the federal government another \$300 million — making it the third largest banking bailout in history.

So far this year 104 U.S. banks, with assets exceeding \$36 billion, have been closed.

As of June 30, the 20 banks' assets totalled \$8.8 billion and deposits totalled \$7.9 billion in about 900,000 accounts, the FDIC said.

Gold enjoys record demand by jewellers

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Demand for gold by jewellers and industrial users in 1992 will easily exceed last year's record and the metal ought to maintain a price of at least \$340 an ounce, a leading industry analyst said Friday.

Timothy Green, chief consultant to the London-based gold Fields Mineral Services Ltd, said the price was vulnerable to some central bank sales but this was no cause for panic.

"In my view, the price level in the \$340-\$350 range is well sustained by physical offtake," he told the Financial Mail annual investment conference. Gold closed in London Thursday at \$339.70 an ounce.

"Looking ahead, the trading range could even improve slowly, just based on physical offtake," he said. But he cautioned the mining industry would have to operate on the assumption there will be no increase in real terms perhaps to the year 2000.

Mr. Green said jewellery manufacturing alone would absorb at least 2,200 tonnes this year, and possibly significantly more, compared with the 2,100 tonnes last year when total industrial fabrication demand was 2,543 tonnes.

He reported "remarkable" increases in sales to major Middle East and Far East markets, except for Japan which imported 245 tonnes last year but had shown a 19 per cent fall to September this year compared with the same period in 1991.

Consumption by leading jewellery manufacturer Italy, which imported 350 tonnes last year, was up 7.6 per cent in the first nine months versus the same 1991 period. Supplies to Turkey — a market hub for Iran, eastern Europe and southern republics of the former Soviet Union — were 26 per cent higher in that period.

Shipments to Dubai were up 61 per cent and heading for a record, while those to Taiwan increased by 89 per cent.

Latest data for Hong Kong, an entrepot for China, showed a 34 per cent rise to end-July. Shipments to Singapore, which also supplies India and South East Asia, rose 39 per cent to end-August.

Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan alone will import 900 to 1,000 tonnes this year, equal to half of all Western output, he said.

India will absorb well over 200 tonnes, Mr. Green said, but added this seemed modest against the potential market in China where rapid economic growth, especially in its southern provinces, has led to a surge in demand.

Consumption in China, he said, may well double this year to 400 tonnes.

"It is a crucial cornerstone in supporting today's gold price floor," he added.

Mr. Green believed the buying momentum in China can be maintained for some years, but said it would be naive to expect per capita consumption to reach the levels of Hong Kong or Taiwan.

"Positively, however, it can be said that China in the 1990s is coming to fulfil the role that the Middle East played in the 1970s, at least as a consumer of gold if not as a speculator," he pointed out.

Jewellery consumption was again rising in Latin America.

Mr. Green said sales by central banks, which have been net sellers since 1965 and are likely to remain so, were set to exceed 400 tonnes in 1992, including 200 tonnes already disposed of by Belgium. He expected sales of nearly 100 tonnes by Canada.

But, those amounts have been well absorbed by strong physical demand, Mr. Green said, adding he detected a move by some central banks to calm fears that they could disrupt the market.

Market concerns focused on the high gold holding in Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Austria, which hold around 10,000 tonnes of gold.

He said, however: "The Bundesbank in Germany or the Banque de France know full well they cannot inaugurate a large sales programme. It would damage the price. Other central banks also realise sales must be modest and discreet."

Ex-communist states seen posing economic threat

GLENEAGLES, Scotland (R) — Former communist countries could prove a major economic threat to western Europe as manufacturing industries demand better educated workers with higher skills, a top World Bank official said.

"The number of industries and products where labour costs are a large part of the cost of production is declining," Sir William Rytie told a forum of Scottish business leaders Friday.

"The introduction of automated methods has been reducing the labour component in production, so making it less advantageous to locate plants in low-labour-cost countries," he said.

Mr. Rytie, executive vice-president of the International Finance Corporation, a World Bank affiliate, said in many industries the type of labour required was changing.

"Brain power becomes more important and more educated work forces with higher skills are needed. This is a trend which may greatly help the former communist countries, which have highly educated populations and, at least for the time being, rather low labour costs," he pointed out.

"The remarkable fact is that the 15 countries of the former Soviet Union produce a third of all the world's doctorates in science and engineering. If this resource can be properly used it could give that part of the world a formidable advantage," Mr. Rytie said.

He said countries like India also had resources that could be utilised.

"India has a lot of unemployed educated people willing to work for rather low pay," Mr. Rytie said.

India has become quite an important off-shore producer of computer software for a variety of multi-national corporations, taking advantage of the availability of well-trained, but still fairly cheap specialists.

A Japanese businessman told the forum, which was considering the problems of global competition, that much of Japan's business success lay in the fact that both employees and owners regarded their firm as a family and put its survival first.

Two Nishiumi, managing director in Europe of the giant Sumitomo Corporation, said good suggestions from workers were rewarded and implemented.

One large electronic company received no less than 300,000 suggestions.

Pay and fringe benefits for senior executives are comparatively modest in Japan, Mr. Nishiumi said. A survey of chief executives in the top 30 firms showed that in the United States the total remuneration package was around \$3 million, \$1 million in Britain but only \$500,000 in Japan.

When a company's profitability declined, managerial and executive salaries were reduced. About 20 per cent of companies had cut executive pay this year.

Another feature was the amount of profit retained for research and development. In 1990, Japanese companies paid 27 per cent of after-tax profits in dividends, compared to 52 per cent in Germany and 56 in America.

Japanese employees worked more hours than those in other industrial countries but few days were lost by disputes.

MISSING CHILDREN

1. Mary Liza Sayyad, of Finnish nationality, declare that my three children Sami, Zaka, Iya, 3 and Noura, one year old, born to Daoud Abdullah Sayyad have been missing since 9/8/92. Nothing has been reported about them since.

People with information about them please notify the nearest police station or call tel.: 642467

Persons with knowledge about the children could be facing prosecution should they cover up for their concealment.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date: 29/10/92	NEW YORK CLOSE Date: 30/10/92
US Dollar	1.5750	1.5562
Swiss Franc	1.5378	1.5425
French Franc	1.3750	1.3755
German Mark	5.2140	5.2390
Japanese Yen	123.25	123.40
European Currency Unit	1.2685**	1.2725

30 Day STG
European Opening @ 10:00 a.m. GMT

Precedence Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.12	3.50	3.50	3.61
Swiss Franc	8.19	7.50	6.93	6.56
German Mark	8.93	8.87	8.43	8.93
Japanese Yen	6.31	6.31	6.25	5.93
French Franc	9.87	9.76	9.37	8.93
Japanese Yen	3.87	3.68	3.65	3.59
European Currency Unit	10.37	10.31	9.75	9.12

Bank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000.00 or equivalent.

Functions Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	340.00	6.55	Silver	3.77	0.85

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 31/10/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.685	0.687
Swiss Franc	1.0643	1.0696
German Mark	0.4434	0.4456
French Franc	0.4971	0.4996
Japanese Yen	0.1307	0.1314
Japanese Yen	0.5544	0.5572
Swedish Krona	0.3943	0.3963
Italian Lira	0.1177	0.1183
Belgian Franc	0.0519	0.0522
Per 100	0.02156	0.02167

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Saudi Riyal	1.7950	1.8150
Lebanese Lira	0.0348	0.0390
Saudi Riyal	0.1824	0.1835
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2300	2.3050
Qatari Riyal	0.1853	0.1867
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7750	1.7790
UAE Dirham	0.1853	0.3565
Greek Drachma	0.3425	0.3565
Cypriot Pound	1.4950	1.5045

All Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	28/10/92	Close	21/10/92	Close
All-Share	154.98		154.00	
Banking Sector	116.54		117.12	
Insurance Sector	149.69		147.98	
Industry Sector	204.27		200.74	
Services Sector	222.16		222.35	

Tunisia to issue new 20-dinar bank note

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia's central bank will issue a new 20-dinar bank note, the Tunisian news agency TAP said.

The note, which bears a portrait of Kheireddine Ettoussi, a Tunisian reformer and prime minister in the late 19th century, will go into circulation on Nov. 9, it said.

The note is worth about \$23.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Trading Volume in Parallel Market: 21850
Trading Volume in the Parallel Market: 61753

Company Name	Trading Volume	Prev. Price	Closing Price	Opening Price
JORDAN BANK	92,122	2,180	2,200	2,230
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	13,110	3,300	3,300	3,270
JORDAN COMMERCIAL BANK	3,594	2,900	2,980	3,000
JORDAN BANK FOR SAVINGS & INVESTMENT	6,122	2,450	2,450	2,440
JORDAN BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	41,440	3,070	3,070	3,020
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	5,142	2,920	2,950	2,950
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD	25,447	3,930	3,930	3,920
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	147,076	1,440	1,440	1,440
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	24,681	1,860	1,860	1,790
BUSINESS BANK	73,147	3,820	3,850	3,840
NET ESTATE INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	15,465	3,160	3,120	3,050
JORDAN BANK	45,169	5,520	5,520	5,480
JORDAN INSURANCE	7,170	120,000	119,500	119,500
JORDAN FIRE INSURANCE	1,472	2,950	2,950	2,950
JORDAN MARINE INSURANCE	14,645	2,880	2,880	2,880
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE	5,194	2,120	2,100	2,120
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	352	1,740	1,760	1,760
PHILADELPHIA INSURANCE	107,190	2,300	2,700	2,700
JORDAN OIL INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	1,020	3,400	3,400	3,400
JORDAN OIL INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	2,350	2,300	2,350	2,350
JORDAN OIL INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	7,332	2,210	2,220	2,220
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	820	1,900	4,100	4,100
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	11,041	6,200	6,200	6,390
LIVESTOCK & TOURISM	9,428	1,210	1,230	1,230
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE	2,810	2,240	2,250	2,240
UNITED NUBLE BANK & CONSTRUCTION	93,956	2,170	2,170	2,160
INDUSTRIAL EQUIP. REPAIRING & MAINTENANCE	3,105	1,130	1,130	1,120
PETRA REPAIRING & EQUIPMENT LEASING	8,523	1,210	1,210	1,200
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	73,920	0,840	0,840	0,840
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	231	1,010	1,060	1,060
JORDAN REALTY CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	1,956	1,120	1,160	1,160
JORDAN PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	12,445	1,310	1,390	1,390
JORDAN BANK	5,359	2,510	2,500	2,490
THE PUBLIC WORKS	123	2,400	2,450	2,450
JORDAN ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	440,744	8,570	8,650	8,590
JORDAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	14,466	6,710	6,700	6,700
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	35,410	5,660	5,730	5,670
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES INDUSTRIES	23,743	20,550	20,650	20,700
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	102,603	5,800	5,900	5,990
JORDAN ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	23,375	6,680	6,650	6,730
JORDAN ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	7,560	3,570	3,600	3,600
JORDAN ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	2,346	10,800	10,800	10,800
JORDAN ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	45,857	6,050	6,080	6,290
JORDAN ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	71,921	0,780	0,780	0,770
JORDAN PAPER & CARD BOARD FACTORIES	2,227	4,900	4,950	4,950
JORDAN PAPER & CARD BOARD FACTORIES	175,804	3,020	3,090	3,120
JORDAN CENTER FOR PAPER, & CHEMICALS	155,243	3,300	3,320	3,320
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	14,011	0,890	0,900	0,990
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	65,977	4,950	4,940	5,000
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	11,245	13,240	13,200	13,250
ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	4,287	3,120	3,120	3,180
ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	78,408	2,450	2,440	2,450
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MACHINERY/JORD	29,982	1,310	1,320	1,270
SPINNING & WEAVING	2,864	2,950	2,970	2,950
JORDAN WOOD INDUSTRIES / JWC	260	2,750	2,800	2,800
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	90,705	3,320	3,330	3,400
JORDAN SULFUR-CHEMICALS	428,876	4,100	4,090	4,160
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	25,390	3,370	3,360	3,370
JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	35,308	1,950	1,940	2,050
JORDAN PRIMARY CONCRETE INDUSTRIES	23,331	0,430	0,420	0,430
UNIVERSAL WOOD INDUSTRIES	65,350	4,970	4,970	4,960
JORDAN INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	677,312	2,860	2,840	2,940
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	18,802	8,360	8,360	8,350

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Fierce street fighting breaks out in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — The fiercest street fighting in weeks broke out in Sarajevo Saturday between Muslims and Serbs who appeared geared to take Bosnia's fourth biggest city, Tuzla.

Heavy infantry battles erupted without warning in Grbavica and Hrasno districts near the Holiday Inn Hotel and slowly spread to the centre of the city.

Several mortar bombs struck the area around the parliament building and a mortar bomb fell on the pavement metres away from the Holiday Inn, shaking the building, severely damaged in previous artillery attacks.

Another bomb fell close to the bridge across the Miljacka River behind the parliament building and smoke was seen rising from a tall power company building, destroyed in the fighting for Hrasno three weeks ago.

Parts of the residential district near the hotel were on fire with plumes of smoke rising into the sky.

The reason for the sudden outbreak of hostilities was not immediately clear and Sarajevo had spent a generally quiet night before the expected arrival of a 10-truck convoy of the U.N. Children's Fund convoy with winter aid.

Meanwhile the Serbs appeared to be preparing for a push against Tuzla, the fourth biggest Bosnian city with a mixed population of

131,000 and a major industrial centre in northeastern Bosnia.

Croatian Radio reported explosions had been echoing throughout the area of Banj Brdo Hill, a strategic point which controls the entire region of Semberija in the Sava Valley, and the Tuzla industrial zone.

The radio said the Tuzla defenders were fighting what it said was possibly a decisive battle with Serb forces for this "extremely important point."

The Bosnian government-controlled radio repeated reports that more than 5,000 civilians fleeing the fallen town of Jajce had been sheltered on their way to safety in the town of Travnik.

The U.N. Security Council said it was appalled by the reports and drew such violations of international law to the attention of a recently-formed U.N. War Crimes Commission.

A U.N. relief official could not confirm refugees' reports the shelling had injured several people and killed a woman, but he said it had come from the Bosnian Serbs who captured Jajce Thursday after a five-month siege.

But the Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) denied the victims were responsible, saying there were no Serb units within four kilometres (2.5 miles) of the refugees.

"It is supposed that it is just a

new conflict between the Muslims and Croats in the valley of the River Laeva," it said.

Zicco Suljevic, a commander in Bosnia's mainly Muslim army, said Jajce had fallen after differences between Croat forces and the Bosnian army stopped an arms supply convoy.

Ejup Ganic, deputy to Bosnia's Muslim president, said the defenders had simply run out of ammunition.

"They held the lines to their last bullet and when they ran out of ammunition they withdrew. Many of our men were killed. That's the truth about Jajce," Mr. Ganic said.

The capture of Jajce, a crossroads town some 160 kilometres northwest of the capital Sarajevo, was a devastating military and psychological blow for the Bosnian government.

"Liberation of Jajce is the most significant victory for (the Bosnian Serb) people, a success of inestimable value," SRNA said Friday.

The official of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said besides those trapped not far from Travnik, 20,000 to 30,000 more refugees were trying to reach the town.

Travnik has been the main departure point for relief convoys and Bosnian reinforcements for Jajce.

Bosnian army officers fear



An elderly Bosnian sells winter shoes at a Sarajevo market where not much else is for sale

Travnik, which already has some 26,000 refugees in it, was next to be attacked.

A UNHCR statement said it was sending every spare truck it had from Split to its distribution centre at nearby Vitez to help transport material to newly displaced persons.

Mr. Ganic accused Croatia's president of cutting ammunition supplies to defenders of Jajce.

The accusation, denied by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman Friday, was further evidence of the crumbling Muslim-Croat front against the Serbs.

Mr. Ganic said Mr. Tudjman cut the supplies to the beleaguered defenders of Jajce,

forcing them to retreat when they ran out of ammunition.

He accused Mr. Tudjman of stopping munitions shipments after Bosnia had already paid 2½ times the commercial price for them and promised to give half the munitions to the Croats.

Mr. Tudjman, speaking on Croatian radio, dismissed the accusations as "astonishing" and accused "extreme" Muslims of being responsible for Muslim-Croat feuding.

Meanwhile, a Security Council committee monitoring sanctions against the Belgrade government continued to withhold permission Friday for it to import 874,400

tonnes of fuel it says is badly needed for the coming winter, a committee source said.

The committee chairman was authorised to ask the Yugoslav authorities for additional information in response to previously posed questions about where and how the fuel would be used and about existing stocks.

Some members felt there were inconsistencies and incomplete answers in the original reply, the source added.

The Yugoslav authorities will also be asked how any future fuel imports might be monitored to ensure they were not diverted for non-humanitarian purposes.

5 U.S. nuns murdered in Liberia

MONROVIA (R) — Five American nuns have been killed in Liberia, presumably by Charles Taylor's militiamen, Roman Catholic Archbishop Francis said Saturday.

The missionaries were stranded in the Taylor-held Monrovia suburb of Gardnersville and they had been missing since Oct. 20 and 21.

Francis, the archbishop of Monrovia, said he received the news early Saturday.

"The deaths are confirmed. It is absolutely certain but it is too dangerous to identify the source," he told Reuters at his residence.

"Only Taylor's men were in the area" around the convent, he said.

It was by far the worst incident involving foreign missionaries since Mr. Taylor began Liberia's civil war nearly three years ago. At least 20,000 Liberians have died.

All five Americans were with the Precious Blood of Christ order, based in Roma, Illinois.

Archbishop Francis and other church sources identified them as Barbara Ann Muttra, Cathleen Maguire, Agnes Mueller and first cousins Joelle and Shirley Kohlmer.

"There of the sisters were killed outside the gate of their residence in Gardnersville and two were killed further down the road," a senior church source said.

The area, where the nuns worked as teachers and nurses, has been under the control of Mr. Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) since shortly after he attacked Monrovia on Oct. 15.

No word had been heard of Barbara Ann Muttra or Joelle Kohlmer since the evening of Oct. 20 when they left the convent to take a sick child to hospital.

The three others had been missing since Oct. 21.

"This is a turning point. How is Taylor going to get out of this one? asked a stunned Liberian relief worker in Monrovia.

"The Vatican will never forgive him," he said.

Liberia's Catholic Church is almost as divided as the partitioned country. While Archbishop Francis sits in Monrovia, Bishop Ben Sekey is de facto primate of Taylor-held Liberia.

Church missionaries and United Nations workers had tried and failed for several days to reach Gardnersville, the main NPFL stronghold in the Monrovia area.

The rest of the city is defended by the West African Force (ECOMOG) and its two anti-Taylor Liberian militia allies.

Galileo rehabilitated by Vatican

VATICAN CITY (R) — John Paul is expected to rehabilitate Galileo, the century Italian scientist condemned by the Inquisition for viewing that the Earth revolved around the sun. The Vatican the Pope would address a session of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences to formally end the way a commission he set up 13 years ago to study the Galileo case. Inquisition, which sought heresies, condemned Galileo 1633 for backing a theory astronomer Nicolas Copernicus because it clashed with Bible verses such as "God fixed Earth upon its foundation, it be moved forever."

A bird in the hand? Not this one...

WASHINGTON (R) — A last orange and black song found in the jungles of Guinea is the first bird known to be poisonous. University of cago researchers said. The 1.1 day sized bird called a Hor pitohui produces a potent toxin in its skin and feathers that can cause numbness, paralysis and even death. Many are poisonous but until now it had been identified among the birds. The bird is virtually ignored by scientists working in the area and only by accident was it discovered to contain poisons similar to the poison-dart frogs of Amazon.

Astrologers and children tip Bush to win

NEW YORK (R) — With showing President George H. W. Bush's one-candidate lead, puzzled parents could turn to straw polls — and children, astrologers folklore — for a clue to Tuesday election outcome. Astrologer Jeane Dixon, whose record calling presidential elections: the past has been on the m. Bush winning. Mr. Bush while the Weekly Reader newspaper for schoolchildren which has called every election since it began polling its readers in 1956, has Mr. Bush beating Mr. Clinton by 58 per cent on the basis of a September poll of 600,000 children.

14-year-old girl 'divorces' parents

LONDON (R) — A 14-year British girl has won a landmark court order that allows her to live with her parents and move out of the family home. The case, which followed that of an American boy, 12-year-old Gregory Kingsley, who in September split from his parents in order to be adopted by his parents. In the British case, the girl, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, won an order from a judge forbidding her parents from removing her from her home. The girl, described as a mature and sensible, moved to home of her boyfriend some weeks ago and is regarded as a friend of the family. Mr. Spencer, a partner with the Eish law firm Hart Brown based in the southern English of Guildford, said the case was probably unprecedented in British legal history. "This appears to be the first case of its nature this country. The court is finding its way," he said. The girl decided to move out of the family home because her divorced parents were becoming reconciled and father, whom she disliked, beginning to play a more prominent role in family life. Mr. Spencer said the initial court order will be reviewed at a court hearing next month, which the girl's mother and new "mother" will be present.

Gallery sells antique Egyptian jewelry

PARIS (AP) — Glass bracelets crafted for children and worn by the wives of pharaohs highest advisors thousands of years ago are among the antique Egyptian treasures lifted from sands on sale at a private gallery More than 3,000 visitors wandered into the tiny Kine Gallery in central Paris to look at 200 necklaces, rings, amulets, earrings, bracelets and other decorative pieces some dating back to ancient times. Prices range from 10 francs (\$100) for small bracelets worn by children to 600,000 francs (\$120,000) for a solid gold face dating back to 1250.

Zulus march against ANC pact with government

DURBAN (R) — Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi led thousands of armed Zulu men and bare-breasted women in a march Saturday to protest against what he called government collusion with the African National Congress (ANC).

Brandishing spears and clubs and chanting war cries, a crowd estimated by police at 8,000, to 10,000 snaked through the streets of this eastern port to the city ball, where Mr. Buthelezi handed over a petition addressed to President F.W. de Klerk.

The petition protested against agreements between Mr. de Klerk and ANC leader Nelson Mandela at a summit on Sept. 26 and accused them of colluding to exclude the Zulu nation from a future South African democracy.

The summit ended a five-month deadlock in democracy talks, but led Mr. Buthelezi to withdraw his Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party from the negotiations about ending white rule.

In a bid to promote contact and quell violence that has killed more than 6,000 people in two years, Mr. de Klerk agreed to free political prisoners and curb the display of so-called cultural weapons carried by Mr. Buthelezi's supporters.

Mr. Buthelezi said Saturday it was AK-47 rifles — the trademark of the ANC during its 30-year guerrilla war against white rule — and not sticks and spears that caused the most deaths in South Africa's ravaged black townships.

"Actions in which the government is siding with the ANC/ South African Communist Party alliance in its vendetta against the Zulu people... are direct stimulants to violence," the petition said.

"The hideous escalation of violence in KwaZulu/Natal can be laid at government and ANC/ SACP alliance doorsteps."

In an apparent reference to the agreement between the government and the ANC on the need for an elected Constituent Assembly, which Mr. Buthelezi opposes, the petition said no-one could write a new constitution for South Africa without the participation of the six million Zulus.

Police said they had not banned the carrying of spears and sticks Saturday because the march through Durban was a cultural event and not a party political one.

Men wearing leopard-skin capes, ankle-rattles and feathers charged each other in mock attacks and danced with their weapons as they waited for the march to begin.

The ANC said the march was provocative amid escalating conflict that has killed 60 people in Natal province in a week.

It contests Mr. Buthelezi's claim to represent the Zulu nation and pointed out that the march was planned and announced by his political party.

Zulus have been fighting Zulus in a low intensity civil war between ANC and Inkatha loyalists since the mid-1980s.

Mr. de Klerk said Thursday he would invoke emergency powers and double the number of troops backing up police in Natal

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Bomb explodes near Major's office

LONDON (R) — Police Saturday sifted through wreckage of a car-bomb which exploded near Prime Minister John Major's London office in an attack they suspect was launched by the IRA to show it can hit at the heart of Britain's government. The explosion highlighted the ability of bombers to target central London sites despite new security measures around government offices in Whitehall and a huge explosives haul in the capital two days ago. Two men hijacked a cab at gunpoint Friday evening and forced the driver to take them to the corner of Downing Street and Whitehall (a parcel containing the bomb, police said. A police officer raised the alarm after seeing men fleeing from the car and cordoned off the street. The explosion ripped the car apart, shattering windows and sending a plume of smoke and flames above Whitehall. Journalists working in the nearby houses of parliament said they felt the building shudder. No one was injured in the blast. Mr. Major was not at his 10 Downing Street office and, like most ministers and members of parliament, had left the capital for the weekend.

Canada creates Eskimo homeland

OTTAWA (R) — The government has signed an agreement that grants Eskimos political control over a vast area of the Arctic equal to one fifth of Canada's territory, the accord creates a new territory called Nunavut — meaning "our land" in the native Inuktitut language — that covers two million square kilometres of frozen Arctic tundra. It will have its own government and legislature. The transition to full self-government is expected to take about 16 years. A land settlement to be ratified in a vote next week will give the 17,500 Eskimos who live there exclusive ownership of almost one fifth of Nunavut and sub-surface mineral rights to 36,300 square kilometres. "They will become the largest private landowners in the world," said Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Tom Siddon. "In time, the new territory will move towards provincial status."

U.N. to send mission to Tajikistan

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council has called for a halt to fighting in the ex-Soviet Republic of Tajikistan, where backers of the former Communist rulers control several towns, and urged a peaceful settlement. An agreed statement read out at a Council meeting also welcomed a decision by Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to send a mission to Tajikistan and other parts of Central Asia in response to requests from governments in the region. The group will study prospects for a regional peace-making effort and is also expected to visit Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, a U.N. source said. The Council met after Tajikistan Prime Minister Abdulmalik Abdulajonov asked Russia for troop reinforcements to form a security belt around the capital, Dushanbe, where at least 20 people were killed in an attack last weekend by supporters of the former Communist government.

Armenia appeals to U.S. for flour

WASHINGTON (R) — Armenia's top diplomat in Washington has sent an urgent appeal to the United States to launch an emergency airlift of flour to the former Soviet republic. In a letter to Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, Armenian Charge d'Affaires Alexander Arzumanyan said there was a serious bread shortage in his country and that grain shipments expected to arrive from Turkey had been delayed for at least a week. A statement from the Armenian embassy quoted Mr. Arzumanyan as saying Armenian flour reserves were below 1,000 tonnes, or less than a single day's supply. It said Armenia would begin bread rationing on Nov. 1. The situation was exacerbated by Azerbaijan's blockade of road and rail lines to Armenia and recent unrest in Georgia which had closed an additional rail link to the country. "Armenia needs emergency assistance and an airlift of flour holds the best hope to help address this crisis," said Mr. Arzumanyan, he said his country was also appealing to other Western governments.

Art world pays tribute to MacMillan

LONDON (R) — British choreographer Sir Kenneth MacMillan, who died at a performance of one of his own ballets, was hailed as a creative genius whose death was a tragedy for the dance world. One of the world's leading choreographers, Mr. MacMillan died backstage at London's Covent Garden Ballet and Opera House while the Royal Ballet was performing a revival of his tragic ballet Mayerling. Aged 62, he was believed to have suffered a heart attack. Lord Palumbo, chairman of Britain's Arts Council, paid tribute to Mr. MacMillan, describing him as one of the greatest choreographers of the post-war period. "Sir Kenneth MacMillan's sudden death is a tragedy for lovers of dance the world over," Mr. Palumbo said. "This creative genius will live on through his work for generations to come." Mr. MacMillan, accompanied by his Australian wife, went backstage to rest after complaining of feeling unwell during the final act of the ballet. His death was not announced until the end of the performance. Jeremy Isaacs, general director of the Opera House, told a stunned audience: "You have just seen one of the masterpieces by a master. I regret to tell you Kenneth MacMillan has suffered a heart attack and died."

Fighting flares in south Russian region

MOSCOW (R) — Fighting raged Saturday between rival ethnic groups near the capital of the Russian region of North Ossetia in the Transcaucasus. ITAR-TASS News Agency said.

It said Ingush militants were arriving in the suburbs of Vladikavkaz, where villages were caught up in battles involving armoured vehicles, heavy artillery and grenade launchers.

North Ossetia, an autonomous republic within Russia, has appealed to Moscow for help amid fears of escalating ethnic tension.

TASS quoted the chairman of the North Ossetian Defence Council, Akhsarbek Galazov, as saying that great efforts had been made to stabilise the situation in a mainly Ingush-populated suburban area after clashes with Ossetians.

"However, on the night of Oct. 30 to 31, armed groups of Ingush militants, treacherously invaded the territory of the republic's Prigorodny District," he said.

"They attacked military posts, captured hardware and arms, and took hostages from among servicemen and members of the republic's Interior Ministry and the Russian Interior Ministry. There are killed and wounded on both sides."

Interfax News Agency said one Ingush and one Ossetian had been killed. Four Ingushes were reported wounded.

North Ossetian authorities have imposed a curfew on the capital and surrounding areas and called on volunteers to help repel the Ingush forces.

Meanwhile, Russian President Boris Yeltsin visited a Caspian Fleet navy base Saturday, while back in Moscow political discontent continued to threaten his government.

Militant Communist and nationalist groups met in Moscow to rally opposition ahead of a December session of the country's highest legislature, the Congress of People's Deputies.

The groups, incensed at a Yeltsin decree this week banning a radical anti-government coalition, have accused the reformist government of bringing the economy to its knees with policies they say are imposed by Western financial organisations.

The outlawed National Salvation Front, an alliance of Communists and hardline nationalists, defied Mr. Yeltsin's ban at a rally in a city centre cinema, where Russian Television said people had been invited to a "cultural evening."

Parliamentary deputies, writers, artists and others criticised

the decree and called for the government's removal.

Radical opposition to Mr. Yeltsin has hitherto been fragmented and ineffective, but the emergence of highly-vocal militant coalition groups appears to have caused alarm bells to ring in the Kremlin.

The threat to Mr. Yeltsin's government could come from the more moderate conservative groups known as the Civic Union, which claims the backing of Russia's powerful industrial lobby and could command majority support at the December congress.

Civic Union leader Arkady Volysky, widely tipped as a successor to Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, said in a recent interview his group would spare Mr. Gaidar his job if alternative economic policies were agreed to.

In Astrakhan, Mr. Yeltsin described the congress as "totally unnecessary" and accused the opposition of attempting to overthrow the government. The conservative Supreme Soviet (parliament) defied him by voting to hold the session.

Mr. Yeltsin said during his visit that he would not deviate from the path of market reforms and predicted economic and financial recovery beginning next year.

Punjab, Kashmir rebels kill over 40 in India

NEW DELHI (R) — More than 40 people were killed in fresh outbreaks of guerrilla violence in India's northern states of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, police said Saturday.

A bomb exploded Saturday in a bus near Jammu, winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir, killing 17 passengers and wounding 30. In Punjab, 26 Hindu farm workers were killed by Sikh separatists in two separate attacks in the Ludhiana district Friday, police said.

They said New Delhi was put under a security alert in case of further attacks by militants Saturday's eighth anniversary of the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by two Sikh bodyguards.

In Jammu, Police Superintendent S.P. Vaid said Muslim militants used a plastic time-bomb to blow up the bus. Two of the wounded were in critical condition.

Two-thirds of Kashmir is ruled by India, the rest by Pakistan. Some militants in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, want their Himalayan area to become part of Pakistan. Others want independence from both countries.

In Punjab, where separatists are fighting for an independent Sikh homeland, Ludhiana police chief Chandra Shekhar said three or four militants herded workers into a field at the village of Jagraon and shot dead 18. Three other Hindus were seriously

wounded.

The other Punjab killings were at Payal where 13-year-old Babul Sharma said eight Hindu labourers were killed while they were eating a celebration dinner.

"We were celebrating a good harvest and our friends had arranged a feast," Sharma told a Reuters photographer.

Sharma said he survived because he had left the house briefly.

Payal is the home district of Punjab's Congress Party Chief Minister Beant Singh who has claimed considerable successes against the Sikh militants since his election in February.

Between 15,000 and 20,000 people have been killed in the Sikh separatist campaign.

Bush, Clinton draw closer in race for White House

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. President George Bush is trying to overcome new charges about his role in the Iran-contra scandal as polls show him drawing ever closer to Democrat Bill Clinton in the race for the White House.

Mr. Clinton was due to campaign in Georgia, Wisconsin, Iowa and Kentucky while Mr. Bush travelled by train across Wisconsin. Independent Ross Perot, who had no appearances Friday, was due to speak in Florida and Missouri.

A CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll Friday of likely voters had Mr. Clinton and Mr. Bush separated by a statistically meaningless one point, with Mr. Clinton at 41 per cent, Mr. Bush at 40 and Mr. Perot down to 14. A Newsweek poll gave Mr. Clinton a two-point lead.

Two other polls gave Mr. Clinton a wider lead. ABC News put the Arkansas governor four points ahead while CBS News had him 10 points in front. All the polls showed Mr. Bush gaining as the campaign entered its final three days.

But a last-minute problem arose for Mr. Bush Friday when the Iran-contra special prosecutor

released a note written in 1986 by then-Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. The note said Mr. Bush was present at a January 1986 meeting with supporters of the arms-for-hostages policy.

That contradicted his claim that he was "out of the loop" and unaware of top-level cabinet opposition to the secret efforts by the Reagan administration to sell arms to Iran to win the release of American hostages in Lebanon.

"Secretary Weinberger's note clearly shows that President Bush has not been telling the truth when he says he was out of the loop," Mr. Clinton said.

"It demonstrates that President Bush knew and approved of President Reagan's secret deal to swap arms for hostages. Today's disclosure... not only directly contradicts the president's claims, it diminishes the credibility of the presidency."

Mr. Bush said the disclosure was nothing new. "That's all been testified to over and over again. It is absolutely absurd," he said in an interview on Cable News Network's Larry King Live Friday night.

Many times that he supported President Reagan's actions in selling arms to Iran but did not know about the details, such as diverting money from the arms sales to the Contras fighting the Sandinistas in Nicaragua.

Congress had banned arms sales to the Contras.

Earlier, Mr. Bush said he was confident he would come from behind to win reelection Tuesday while Mr. Clinton admitted he was getting anxious about the outcome.

At a rally in St Louis Friday, Mr. Bush said he felt a new spirit arising across the country, adding to cheers: "That spirit tells me in my soul that Nov. 3 we are going to be reelected for four more years. It boils down to experience... and, Yes, it boils down to character."

Mr. Clinton, asked by David Frost in an interview on Public Broadcasting System if he was feeling anxious, replied: "Sure you do. You always wonder whether you could have done it in some different way."

Meanwhile, Mr. Clinton is leading President Bush by 16

points among likely California voters in the final week of the presidential election campaign, a poll said Friday.

California is a key state in next Tuesday's presidential election, with 54 electoral college votes. The White House goes to the candidate who gets a nationwide total of 270.

The survey by independent pollsters California Poll found Mr. Clinton maintaining a large lead over Mr. Bush in California despite a huge surge of support for Mr. Perot.

The poll of 1,106 likely California voters found 45 per cent would vote for Mr. Clinton against 29 per cent for Mr. Bush and 23 per cent for Mr. Perot. Three per cent were undecided.

Mr. Clinton's lead has narrowed slightly since the last California poll in early October, when he was leading Mr. Bush 51 per cent to 30 per cent, the poll said. Mr. Perot has made a big surge from the seven per cent he recorded in early October, it said.

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